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AND China Overland Trade Report.

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MARRIAGES.

On the 12th April, at Yokohama, GEORGE COMYN MURRAY, eldest son of the late Colonel Murray of the Ordnance Store Dept., to MARY (MAY), daughter of EDWARD WHEELER, M. A., of Yokohama.

On the 23rd April, 1899, at the Imperial Russian Consulate, Shanghai, and afterwards at No. 5, Sassoon's Buildings, by the Rev. J. A. Nudka, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Linczer, J. HANDELMAN, of Nagasaki, Japan, to OLGA HALMOVITCH, of Shanghai.

On the 4th May, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. F. T. Johnstone, THOMAS YULE, to ELIZABETH PRESCOTT, both of Liverpool, England.

DEATHS.

At 184, Yuhang Road, Shanghai, on the 28th April, 1899, MATTHEW JORDAN, aged 58, a native of Ireland (late of the Municipal Sanitary Department).

On the 3rd May, at New York, HENRY B. HYDE, President of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States. (By wire.)

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The German mail of the 3rd April arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Preussen*, on the 1st May (28 days); and the American mail of the 4th April arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Doric*, on the 3rd May (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK

Calumpit was captured by the American forces on the 26th April.

The Chinese Club has acquired premises at No. 71, Wyndham Street, and is was opened on the 1st May.

Telegraphic intelligence has been received that the extension of the general Settlement at Shanghai has been finally agreed upon.

The *Echo de Chine* states that the incoming French mail will bring a large number of French and Belgian engineers for the Lu-Han Railway.

Mr. B. C. George Scott, H.M.'s. Consul at Tientsin, goes to Canton as Consul-General, and is succeeded at Tientsin by Mr. W. R. Carles.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *Echo Macaense*, referring to the *Lusitano's* denial that Colonel Browne was arrested at Macao, repeats that there was an arrest and says everybody who was present saw it.

The Shanghai mandarins are said to have received news from Germany that the German Government are sending four torpedo-boats to China to strengthen their squadron in the Far East.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 29th April says:—The German flagship *Deutschland* leaves Woosung to-day for Kiaochow, and the *Prinzess Wilhelm* and *Kaiser* are leaving for Germany immediately.

It is reported that Spain intends making a demand upon China for a territorial concession as compensation for China's alleged wrongful conduct in allowing the shipment of arms from Canton to the Philippine rebels.

The Japanese cruiser *Chitose*, which has been built at the Union Iron Works in San Francisco, arrived at Yokosuka on the morning of the 20th April. She is to be fitted with Armstrong guns at the Yokosuka Dockyard.

Affairs in the New Territory are now quiet and the construction of roads is being rapidly pushed forward. During the past week the rebels who were captured have been before the Magistrate, and the case stands adjourned.

A memorial signed by the practising lawyers before the British Consular Court at Bangkok is being forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State praying that an official unconnected with the consular service be appointed as Judge of the Court.

Persistent rumours are in the air that gold has been found within the boundaries of the British concession at Weihaiwei. A syndicate of Shanghai residents has been formed to prospect the locality. Several other people are anxious to chip in.—*Shanghai Daily Press*.

In the Supreme Court at Shanghai on the 28th April, Sir Nicholas Hannen confirmed the report of the Registrar as to the damage inflicted by the *Courie* on the Indo-China Company's steamer *Esang* and *Suiwo*. The Registrar (Mr. E. H. Burrows), sitting with Mr. C. Murray Adamson, of Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., as Assessor, fixed the damages payable by the *Courie* at Tls. 29,098 with costs.

It is reported that the cost of the *Shengking's* trip down the Peiho amounts to Tls. 3,000 for lighters and towage alone, to say nothing of detention, coal consumption, and wear and tear, and was simply undertaken to show the Chinese and foreign shippers how impracticable the scheme was of again establishing Tientsin as a shipping port. The steamer in question was chosen as being the lightest and handiest of the China Navigation Company's fleet.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The Tamsui-Foochow cable, which was lately relaid by Japan after its purchase from the Chinese Government, cannot still be opened to the public on account of the neglect on the part of the Chinese Government to give due notice to the Great Northern and Great Eastern Telegraphic Companies. As the Communication Department in Tokyo is now negotiating on the matter with the Chinese Government and the two Telegraphic Companies, the telegraphic communication on the line is expected to be opened to the public at no remote date.—*The Formosa*.

From the Ningpo correspondence of the *N. C. Daily News* we learn that a very fine memorial stone is being prepared by workmen in Ningpo, which will, when finished, be erected in the British Cemetery, Chusan. The inscription is as follows:—

"To the Memory
of the Officers and Men
of

Her Britannic Majesty's Navy and Army
who Lost their Lives
in the Occupation of Chusan, A. D. 1841 to
1844.

Cemetery restored by British Nation, 1898."

A handsome pair of aluminum marine glasses has been presented by Messrs. Macleod & Co., of Manila, to Captain Cowper, of the British gunboat *Plover*, in recognition of the valuable services rendered by the captain in connection with the difficult task of rescuing Mr. Cogan, Messrs. Macleod & Co.'s agent in the island of Leyte, after the natives had carried him off for the purpose of holding him to ransom. The binoculars are of Voigtlander's make, supplied by Gaupp & Co., Hongkong, and they bear the following inscription:—"Presented by Macleod & Co., of Manila, to Captain C. V. de M. Cowper, of H.M.S. *Plover*, in remembrance of his gallant rescue of Mr. Bernard Cogan from the hands of Philippine natives who held him prisoner at Barugo, Leyte Island, in March, 1899."—*Manila Times*.

A private correspondent writing from Manila on the 13th April, whose letter is quoted by the *Straits Times*, says:—Business is flourishing. Every ship from America brings a number of civilians. New business houses are being opened everywhere. Professional men, lawyers, doctors, and dentists are establishing themselves, and they will all require clerks and assistants. At present there is a scheme afoot to start electric railways, and an enterprising syndicate is bidding for the Escolta with a view to the demolition of the present buildings and the erection of new ones. Now that it is known that gold and other minerals are to be found in the islands a rush of prospectors and miners is expected. It is alleged that a dentist, who went there from Singapore a few months ago, makes \$2,000 a month.

THE CHINESE CUSTOMS AND THE NEW TERRITORY.

(Daily Press, 2nd May.)

In reply to an enquiry made by the Chamber of Commerce the Government stated the other day that "the functions of the Chinese Customs have ceased within the area of the new territory and the extended waters of the colony. By arrangement with Her Majesty's Government the three stations of Capsuimoon, Fotochow, and Cheungchow are permitted to remain in the occupation of the Chinese Customs until accommodation on their new frontier has been provided, but not later than October next," and on the condition that no coercive functions will be performed by them in the waters of the colony. Does this occupation give the right to fly the Chinese flag? We should say most decidedly not, seeing that it is not a political occupation, but merely an occupation by sufferance. If the Customs were not required to actually haul down the Chinese flag it ought at least to be overshadowed by the British flag, in order to avoid any possibility of doubt as to the sovereignty over the territory, and the Chinese flag, if for any reason it is allowed to float at all, should be confined absolutely to the buildings in the occupation of the Customs. Such, however, is not the case, and at Capsuimoon in particular grave scandal has been caused by the state of affairs now existing. We are informed that the Chinese flag is still floating from a flagstaff on the top of the hill behind the Custom-house at Ma-wan, where it is daily seen by hundreds of Chinese travelling by the Canton steamers as they steam through Capsuimoon Pass and by numerous American and European tourists. The flagstaff is situated some distance from the station; the position is a splendid one, and to contribute to the impression that the territory is still Chinese it is reported that a brand new Chinese flag was hoisted on the 17th April, the date upon which the New Territory was to have been taken over by the British had not the treachery of the Chinese necessitated taking possession the day previous. Whether the use of a new flag was intentional or a mere accident of the Service it is just the sort of thing that would please the Chinese officials and give them an opportunity of holding the British up to contempt and ridicule amongst the people. As already stated, the flagstaff occupies a splendid position, being seen by great numbers every day, and if the British flag were hoisted there it would make these travellers realise that we have actually taken over the territory; it would bring the fact home to them, especially as they have been used to see the Chinese flag there. European and American travellers who have made enquiries on their voyage up to Canton as to the New Territory of which they have heard, how far it extended, and so on, have, we understand, expressed great surprise at seeing the Chinese flag flying on British soil and have been much perplexed as to its meaning, as they well might be. It seems most desirable that the British flag should be hoisted without loss of time at or near the Chinese Customs stations, and more particularly at Capsuimoon, which is more seen than all the others put together.

Whatever assistance may be given to the Chinese Government in protecting its revenue should be given without creating any mistaken impression as to where the sovereignty lies. The British Government is pledged to render the Chinese Govern-

ment certain assistance in the protection of its revenue, and, apart from the written pledge, common equity demands that the colony should not seek to use the advantages conferred by its geographical position for smuggling purposes; but whatever it may finally be decided to do on behalf of the Chinese revenue let it be done under our own flag and not under the Chinese flag. The Customs will no doubt continue to maintain an office in the colony—they also maintain one in London—but let it be an office existing simply for statistical purposes and not exercising any coercive jurisdiction. In the letter addressed by the China Association to the Marquess of SALISBURY in November last, the following passage occurs:—"The Kowloon Commissioner is, as a matter of fact, located in Hongkong, where he has an office and a staff. His presence is not, however, recognised officially; nor—thanks in a great measure, no doubt, to the discretion of the officers who have held the post—has their presence been seriously resented. No very definite objection could, in fact, be offered so long as no official status was assumed, nor official action unduly obtruded. It is quite another thing, however, when the Government is asked to formally recognise the presence in Hongkong of an Imperial Chinese Customs official and a Customs office and staff." From now until October, the date fixed for the removal of the Customs stations, is not a very long time, but even for that period, brief as it is, it is in the last degree undesirable that the Chinese flag should be allowed to fly in the colony under circumstances calculated to convey the impression that Chinese jurisdiction still exists.

GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 29th April.)

The statement made by Japanese papers in reference to the progress of the negotiations between Great Britain and Russia to arrive at an understanding as to their respective "spheres of influence" in the Far East, if not actually true, is evidently a shrewd guess at the position. That such negotiations are going on has long been known, and it has more than once been reported that they had either been brought to a satisfactory conclusion or that a basis of agreement had been arrived at; as a matter of fact, they are still proceeding. It has been very generally agreed both in England and Russia that such an understanding is eminently desirable, and the Ministries in both countries appear to be laudably anxious to get rid of all causes for friction between two great Western Powers which have, by the trend of events, been gradually brought into nearer and nearer neighbourhood in Eastern Asia. It has at last, apparently, dawned upon the officials of the two countries that each has a distinct mission in Asia, and that in prosecuting it there is no necessity for any conflict of interests. The use of tact, the candid recognition of each other's rights, and a little give and take in connection therewith, ought to serve effectually to prevent misunderstandings and avert disagreements. It is true, unfortunately, that between the fiscal and commercial policies of the two Empires there is a great gulf fixed, but while Russia is ripening into a better and juster appreciation of a liberal tariff, Great Britain should be able to conceive some basis on which a

* We have since heard that it was on the 25th April the new flag was hoisted and that the reason was that the old one needed repairing.

practicable agreement in the recognition of each other's field of operations may be laid down.

The Japanese statement is to the effect that a sketch of the *pourparlers* passing between the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR, the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, has reached the Government at Tokyo, and the papers of that city then proceed to give a summary of which each party wants or proposes. According to this account, Great Britain proposes that the central portion of China, south of the Yellow Sea (a vague boundary which is suggestive of guess-work) including the Yangtze Valley, be included in the sphere of British influence, and that Newchwang be made a free port and excluded from the sphere of either country. Russia, on her part, proposes that the Yellow River should form the boundary of the spheres of influence of the two countries, but opposes Newchwang being made a free port on the ground that it, being north of the Yellow River, should be recognised as in the Russian sphere of influence. It would be impossible for Great Britain to recognise all the territory north of the Yellow River as the Russian sphere, for this would embrace Kansuh, Shensi, Shansi, the whole of Chihli and Shantung, and a small part of Honan and Kiangsu. Even if Great Britain were disposed to yield this in consideration of the whole of Central China being recognised as within her sphere, Germany would object to Shantung being regarded as within the Russian sphere. Moreover, Great Britain has larger interests in the trade of Tientsin and Chefoo than in that of Newchwang. To contend for the latter being made a free port and abandon all claims on the other ports would be to strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. No doubt, however, the light of reason and common sense would be turned on to any discussion of these spheres of influence and vested interests would be carefully respected. Unless this were guaranteed there would be scanty likelihood if any *modus vivendi* being discovered for reconciling divergent interests.

The trouble with Powers like Russia and France, which are strongly protective, is that they are never prepared to grant the same liberty of trade that Great Britain gives. The net result is, therefore, that while in all British Colonies foreigners find full liberty to go and come, to carry on business with the minimum of cost, and on a footing of perfect equality with British merchants, the latter are heavily handicapped in territories leased or occupied by protectionist countries like Russia and France. In the negotiations now proceeding the existing acquisitions of Western Powers in China are no doubt treated as facts accomplished, but what about the possible claims of Italy, Austria, Holland, and Belgium to have a domain of influence in the *corpus*? The question is not one that can be settled off-hand, even if the two principals can come to a condition of complete harmony. Nevertheless, it is of greatest importance not only to Great Britain but also to the whole Eastern world that the standing causes of difference between these great Powers should be removed and a pacific agreement arrived at. We hope that this will be the result of the negotiations, and that it may further be the means of breaking up the eccentric alliance between France and Russia, which has hitherto been of little real advantage to the former Power, merely serving to enable her to persevere with her policy of pin-pricks towards Great Britain.

(Daily Press, 5th May.)

The partition of China has been deferred for a while. Great Britain and Russia, instead of dividing the country between them, have agreed to uphold its integrity and independence. What that really means, we take it, is a dual control, or perhaps we should say joint control, for other Powers will no doubt claim to exercise a voice in the matter. The system of joint control does not as a rule work very smoothly. In the case of Egypt it caused a good deal of friction between France and England; in Samoa a dispute is now in progress between England, Germany, and the United States; and it was over Korea that China and Japan came to blows. Let us hope that in the case of China joint control may have a happier issue. That there must be foreign control, either joint or otherwise, we take for granted, although that may seem to some extent negatived by the fact that not only the integrity, but also the independence of the country is to be guaranteed. The independence, however, will, we take it, be more nominal than real, foreign control being exercised through Advisers at Peking and probably also in the various provinces. To guarantee the independence and integrity of China without taking precautions to ensure her good behaviour would be equivalent to putting a premium on murder and treachery, for if China felt herself protected from the natural consequences of her actions foreign life and property would enjoy little security in her dominions. The recently concluded agreement between Germany and England is also understood to have had reference to China and the agreement now come to with Russia will presumably be in accordance therewith. France also may be brought into the concert. Each of these Powers would naturally take precautions for the safety of the lives and property of its own nationals and collectively they may be expected to throw their protection over foreign interests in general. Before attempting to discuss the agreement in detail we must wait for fuller information as to its exact terms, but it would seem that the policy of spheres of influence has now been formally endorsed by treaty, and that, too, without any sacrifice, as we hope, of the principle that equal trading privileges shall be enjoyed in each and every sphere by all comers. We may assume, too, that in the respective spheres of influence the influence exerted will be of an active order and will lead to the steady opening up of the country and the improvement of its administration.

THE CHINESE NAVY.

(Daily Press, 1st May.)

Our Tientsin correspondent, in a letter which appeared in Saturday's issue, pointed out that with the arrival in June of the two new Elswick cruisers and the four Elbing destroyers China will again have some naval potency, provided she can find the *personnel*. Of this there is some doubt, as most of the crews and junior officers were utterly neglected after the capture of Weihaiwei and lapsed back into civil life. Our correspondent adds that he personally knows a few of the ex-officers, and that the utter hopelessness of promotion by merit or seniority disgusted them with the service, and in no case are they desirous to return. Here China's weak spot is touched. If money could ensure an efficient army and navy China would have little difficulty in providing herself with both, but while the whole system of administration continues corrupt she cannot secure an honest per-

sonnel, without which neither the one force nor the other can afford any real protection. Indeed, ships inefficiently officered and manned and which for that reason cannot be expected to exhibit fighting qualities of any moment, are calculated to prove a source of weakness rather than of strength, inasmuch as they constitute a vulnerable point for attack and offer rich prizes for capture. Still, if China wishes to continue to hold a place amongst the nations, she cannot well do without a navy. Though, as pointed out by Lord CHARLES BERESFORD, she stands in urgent need of an efficient army, a navy also is essential, for without it she leaves the sea open to her enemies, and would be in a position of marked inferiority however good her army might be. The recent occupation of various points on the Chinese coast by different Powers might possibly not have taken place if there had been a Chinese navy worthy of the name in existence, and if opposition of that kind were to be feared demands on the part of the smaller European Powers for territorial concessions would not be spoken of as they now are. Writing on this subject three years ago we remarked that "China's ability to resist aggression either ashore or afloat is at present small and is likely to remain so, though she purchase many battleships and organise large battalions, her chief weakness lying in the dishonesty that characterises every department of her administration; but if she makes any serious attempt to render herself capable of defence it seems to us that a navy is as important to her as an army." The events that have transpired since that time seem to support the view then expressed.

THE CHINESE CURRENCY.

(Daily Press, 3rd May.)

The increasing dearness of copper has already made itself very inconveniently felt in the Chinese currency, and under the influence of the "corner" in the metal recently advised by Reuter the inconvenience will become still greater. The adverse effects upon trade of the disturbance in the currency is shown in a memorial recently addressed by the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce to the Viceroy of Chihli on the subject. The memorial states that the export trade of the port is being seriously hampered by the high value of cash, the purchase of products being almost entirely made through that medium. To prove that the evil from which relief is sought has been steadily growing and is not to be in any way regarded as a transient one a table is given showing the exchange value of cash for the last eight years. In the 18th year of H.I.M. KWANG SU a tael exchanged for 3,100 small cash; in the 19th year, for 3,000; in the 20th, for 2,980; in the 21st, for 2,800; in the 22nd, for 2,700; in the 23rd, for 2,600; and in the 24th, for 2,400; while to-day a tael is worth only 2,080 small cash. The remedial measures proposed are the following:—(1) The establishment by proclamation of the silver dollar and its subsidiary silver coins down to 10 cents as legal tender at the exchange of 1,000 large cash per dollar; (2) That all lekin and other official tax collectors throughout the province of Chihli be instructed to accept the silver dollar and its subsidiary coins in payment of all sums exceeding 100 large cash; (3) That the use of copper cash on the Imperial Chinese Railways, either for payment of passenger fares or freights, be entirely abolished in favour of dollars and cents. It is urged that by the introduction of this

measure into all official and commercial departments it will naturally follow that the dollar will speedily become the chief medium of exchange, and that the supply of copper cash, when relegated to use in petty transactions only, will soon become sufficient for requirements. As an example of beneficial results following legislation in the direction indicated, the Chamber cite the case of Kirin and Fengtien, where after the war with Japan the people suffered great loss and inconvenience from the scarcity of copper cash. The Tartar General established a mint for the coinage of silver money and by proclamation fixed the value of the dollar at 1,100 large cash, at which exchange it stands to-day. In view of the large percentage of spurious cash now in circulation, entailing great hardship upon the poor people, who have no alternative but to accept as much as 30 per cent. of such base money from the cash shops, the Chamber also ventures to suggest the desirability of making the private mintage of cash illegal, and that cash officially minted as tokens be of a uniform standard, both as regards composition and weight.

While wishing the Tientsin Chamber all success in its local effort to place the currency on a sounder basis we would suggest that it would have been well if the co-operation of the Chambers at the other Treaty Ports had been solicited with a view to making representations to the Chinese Government as to the necessity of a national and uniform system of currency, for which the time seems ripening. The foreign Ministers at Peking would no doubt willingly give their support to any such representations, and should the Chinese Government not be prepared to act upon the representations the correspondence would at least have an educating tendency and pave the way for action in the future. It is not altogether improbable, however, that the Government might be found willing to entertain proposals made to it on this subject, for with the growing importance of the financial relations of China with foreign countries the inconvenience of the present primitive currency must make itself increasingly felt. The proposal of the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce is in effect that silver should be made the standard of value and that copper cash should be employed only in petty transactions of under ten cents in value. The proposal, however, would really entail the withdrawal of the present copper cash from circulation altogether, for the people would not give cash of a metallic value of twelve cents in payment of a debt of nine cents. The difficulty might be met by the coinage of cash of smaller intrinsic value which should be legal tender for a limited amount only, as in Hongkong, where the cash is legal tender only up to \$1. Leaving details aside, however, the point of importance is that copper has ceased to be a satisfactory standard of value for China, even for the retail trade, and that a change is desirable. The opinion of the majority of the foreign merchants would no doubt be in favour of the adoption of a silver standard, but as China has contracted a large gold indebtedness against which she has pledged her customs revenue it would scarcely be unreasonable on her part if she desired to collect her duties in gold.

Referring to the suggestion of the *Singapore Free Press* for a separate British Chamber of Commerce, a correspondent of that journal says the suggestion is not likely to receive much support, because his experience is that British firms are more jealous of each other than of foreign competition.

SHANGHAI AND PENNY POSTAGE.

(Daily Press, 3rd May.)

Shanghai is still sore because it is not allowed to participate in the benefits of penny postage at the expense of Hongkong. The *N. C. Daily News* in a paragraph referring to the late delivery of a mail concludes with the exclamation:—"And we are paying Hongkong six cents a half-ounce between that colony and Shanghai on all our letters inward and outward!" When people are labouring under the influence of strong feeling it is perhaps a little hard to hold them strictly accountable for the expressions they make use of, but if our contemporary had only considered for a moment it would have seen the absurdity of its remark. A letter costs within a minute fraction of ten cents to go home, and therefore to say that Hongkong receives six cents on each Shanghai letter is contrary to fact. Hongkong has to manage Shanghai's postal business for nothing, or next to nothing, and the demand that we should not only not make any profit but make a large loss is one of the most audacious we have ever heard of. When penny postage was forced upon us as a Crown Colony it was estimated that the loss to the local revenue would be \$30,000 a year. If we were compelled to despatch not only our own correspondence but also that of all the treaty ports of China at the same rate the loss would probably be more than doubled. If our Shanghai contemporary wants penny postage why does it not urge the Municipality to vote say \$30,000 a year for the service? It will not accomplish any good by accusing Hongkong of making a squeeze when there is no squeeze in the case. Shanghai is quite as well able as Hongkong to pay for penny postage if it wants it; if it does not like to pay for it, it certainly cannot expect to enjoy the privilege at our expense.

FOREIGN CONTROL OF THE CHINESE ADMINISTRATION.

(Daily Press, 3rd May)

It is stated in a Shanghai paper that the Germans intend to appoint a German as Adviser to the Shantung Governor, his residence to be in Tsinanfu. This seems to be a move in the right direction and one that might with advantage be followed by the British in Kwangtung. Some time ago a correspondent suggested in our columns that British Residents should be appointed to the various districts of the neighbouring province, and the recent occurrences in connection with the taking over of the New Territory point to the desirability of some form of control over the native administration being established either in the form of an Adviser to the Viceroy, or in the form suggested by our correspondent. A demand for the appointment of British officers to assist in the administration of Kwangtung would, we think, be a better form of reparation to ask for in satisfaction of the recent treachery than further territorial demands.

The Shanghai tailor who is accused of setting his shop on fire has been brought before the Mixed Court Magistrate, who, finding the case proved, said:—"You cheating devil! you can't cheat me!" and thereupon declared the prisoner guilty. In summing up he stated that he wanted to be just in his dealing with so serious a charge and therefore reserved his judgment; that he might consult with the Taotai. The accused was subsequently sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

SETTLEMENT EXTENSION AT SHANGHAI.

AN AGREEMENT ARRIVED AT

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Shanghai, 4th May.

The extension of the general Settlement has been finally settled.

DEMAND BY SPAIN ON CHINA.

We understand that an endeavour is being made to get up evidence with a view to Spain demanding a land indemnity from China on account of the Viceroy permitting the American steamer *Abbey* to leave Canton with arms known to be for Insurgents and landed at Batangas in September last, the vessel being afterwards captured by Admiral Dewey.

SUPREME COURT.

1st May.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. M. GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

TSUI CHAN SHI v. CHEUNG KAM TIN.

Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Messrs. Mounsey and Bratton) appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) represented the defendant.

His Lordship delivered the following judgment in this suit:—

This is a suit brought by a woman named Tsui Chan Shi, against the defendant Cheung Kam Tin, to recover, with interest, a sum of \$800 lent by the plaintiff on the 7th January, 1895, to the defendant's wife (one Cheung Chin Shi,) at a time when she was living separate from her husband. The hearing lasted three days.

The plaintiff alleges that the money was lent for the purpose of paying for necessities suitable for the wife's degree, estate, and condition, that it was so applied by the wife, and that she was at the time deserted by her husband and left without adequate means of support.

It appears that, immediately after the 29th of January, 1892, the defendant left his wife, who was his Kit Fat, and, from that time, has preferred to live with his two concubines and his children by them. The unfortunate quarrel between this husband and wife which led to their separation after many years of married life together has been the subject of considerable discussion in various suits brought, from time to time, against the husband, which have occupied the time and attention of the Courts on previous occasions. I am glad to say that, in the present case, it is unnecessary to discuss the respective merits of the positions formerly taken up on each side as regards these domestic disputes, because, at the trial, it was admitted by the defendant's counsel that, for the purposes of this suit, the wife's position was to be deemed that of a woman deserted by her husband without sufficient cause. Having regard to the views expressed by the Court on previous occasions, I think the husband's counsel was quite right in making that admission; he, however, contended that his client had supplied his deserted wife with adequate means of support and he denied the loan and its expenditure in necessities.

As regards the facts of the case I find that the plaintiff has proved the lending of the money and its application to "necessaries," which, in a case of this sort, may be taken to mean "such things as may fairly be considered essential to the decent maintenance and reasonable comfort of a person in the social position of the defendant's wife." The wife's father was a respectable comrade and the defendant is, and has been for many years, comrade to Messrs. Meyer and Company, and he owns property in land and houses in this Colony to the value of \$172,900 according to his own valuation. It is true that he has liabilities under the head of mortgages and loans which he calculates at \$120,000, but he admitted having made last year \$5,864 by his commissions and profits in his business trans-

actions, apart altogether from his landed property. It is clear, therefore, that, taking his own estimate of his financial position, he is a man of considerable means and well able to make adequate provision for his wife. During the first two years of the separation he did not make his wife any allowance for her support until, as might have been expected, he found himself sued, and then, in February, 1894, he made payments to or on behalf of his wife amounting to \$720, which would be equal to \$30 a month for the two years; he also had to pay a further sum of \$30 odd in respect of another suit against him. It is true that he had also been paying the rent of the house in which she was residing during these two years, which amounted to \$15 a month, but it is obvious that it would have been much wiser on his part if he had made his wife a suitable and regularly paid allowance from the beginning of the separation: she could not live upon nothing and once she began to obtain food and goods supplied on credit and had to borrow money to pay for necessities, litigation was certain to ensue. From February, 1894 to the date of the loan (7th January, 1895) the defendant seems to have made an allowance at the rate of \$40 a month, although the money for the last seven months of that period was not paid till January 10th, three days after the loan, when \$280 in one sum was paid for the seven months arrears. This the defendant accounts for by saying he had heard that his wife was absent from the Colony. She, however, does not admit that she was absent all that time. It is unnecessary in this judgment to set out precisely the exact sums paid by the defendant from time to time either to his wife directly or indirectly, and under pressure of litigation, on her behalf. He alleges that, including rent, they amounted to some \$45 a month on an average for the first two years, and that they averaged roughly \$50 a month from February, 1894, to April 1898. The writ in this suit is dated the 3rd May, 1898. It also appeared in the course of the case that in 1892 the wife benefited to the extent of \$170 through the marriage of one of her servant girls.

But taking all the circumstances of the case into consideration, I am of opinion that the husband did not make adequate provision for the wife, though I am far from saying he ought to allow her anything like the somewhat extravagant sum she mentioned to the Court as essential and requisite for her reasonable maintenance and comfort.

Having dealt with the facts of this suit it remains to consider the law applicable to it. The common law of England recognized the right of a deserted wife left without adequate maintenance to pledge her husband's credit for necessities supplied to her, and the person supplying such necessities could sue the husband. But here the Common Law Courts drew the line. If anyone lent the wife money to pay for or procure necessities, the lender could not recover from the husband. The Courts of Equity, however, took a broader and juster view of the position and afforded the remedy which the special forms of action and the greater technicality of the common law pleading refused. Equity was not satisfied with the technical defence that there was no "privity of contract" between the husband and the lender of money to his destitute and deserted wife. The case of *Knox v. Bushell*, 3 Common Bench Reports, (New Series) p. 334, is an example of the Common Law Court's method of dealing with the matter, while *Deare v. Soutten*, Law Reports, 9 Equity Cases, p. 151, is an instance where the equitable view prevailed and an adequate remedy was afforded to the lender. The history of the law upon this subject will be found in the judgment which Lord Campbell delivered, as Lord Chancellor, in *Jenner v. Morris*, 30 Law Journal, Chancery, p. 361.

In this colony, this Court has jurisdiction to give effect to the equitable rights of the lender, and I accordingly give judgment for the plaintiff with costs for \$800, the amount of the loan together with interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum from the date of the loan. I do not consider that, in the circumstances of this case, the husband should be saddled with interest at a greater rate, although the wife may have stipulated to pay it. In calculating the amount of interest to be paid by the

husband allowance must be made for any sums on account of interest already paid by the wife. In conclusion, His Lordship added—I may add (although this forms no part of my judgment) that I again strongly recommend the husband and wife to come to an agreement as to the amount and mode of payment of maintenance money, during this separation. I am quite prepared, if the parties desire me to do so, to name the amount of the monthly allowance which in my opinion the husband ought to pay, and to see the parties and their counsel in Chambers with a view to some arrangement.

AFFAIRS IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

The policing on the New Territory is being pushed on with, Inspector Moffat going over to Ping San on Saturday.

Major Watson, A.M.S., who relieved Major Brown on the latter being injured in the collision with the rebels in Pat-heung Pass, has met with an accident, a water buffalo charging him. He was, however, fortunately not seriously injured.

From the Chinese vernacular papers we learn that two mandarins, one a Prefect named Foo Shan, and the other an Expectant Magistrate named Cheong Wan Moo, who were sent by the Viceroy to enquire into the origin of the disturbances in the Kowloon new territory and to interview the English authorities, have returned to Canton and have reported to the Viceroy that the rebellion has been suppressed and that there is no fear of any further outbreak. The report is not published in full, and what the delegates had to say as to the origin of the disturbance does not appear. It is further stated that three hundred Chinese soldiers remain in the new territory for the preservation of order, but what is presumably meant is that there are Chinese troops stationed on the other side of the frontier.

Another flag-hoisting took place in the new territory on Sunday, Cheung Chau being the locality which witnessed the ceremony. Captain Superintendent May, Inspector Gillies, and a number of Indian police went over for the purpose, Inspector Gillies and the Indian police being subsequently installed in the Custom House.

We hear from a private source that affairs in the north-western portion of the Kowloon Extension are still in a very disturbed and lawless condition. The district is infested with crowds of armed roughs, who are holding up the people and committing robberies on a large scale. The officials on the Chinese revenue cruiser at Shekwan, on the north-west side of Deep Bay, are unable, or consider it too unsafe, to go ashore there, on account of the dangerous state of affairs.

Colonel the O'Gorman, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lookhart, and 100 men of the Hongkong Regiment are still stationed in the extension. Taipohu is now connected with Hongkong by telephone.

The road to give communication with Shatin and the New Territory is being rapidly pushed forward, and the trace may now be seen standing out clearly on the hillside. It runs from the direction of Yaumati towards a gap above Laichikok, whence it will descend and follow the valley on the other side of the range.

THE KOWLOON REBELS BEFORE THE MAGIS RATE.

At the Magistracy on the 2nd May the five rebels taken prisoners were again brought before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith to answer for their delinquencies. Their names are Wan Kong Choi, who is a farmer, is 60 years of age, and hails from Lung Ah; Chung Cheung, aged 70, another farmer, from Lam Tsan; Chung Shan, aged 42, another farmer from the same place; and Li To, aged 39, a tinsmith from Am Ho village, Fungkun district.

Two charges were preferred against them. They were as follow:—

I.—That they together with divers other evil-disposed persons to the number of fifty and more, on the 17th day of April, 1899, being then armed with firearms and other offensive weapons, at Pat-heung Pass, British Kowloon, in this colony, unlawfully, riotously, and routously did assemble and gather together to disturb the peace, and being so assembled and gathered to-

gether armed as aforesaid, did then and there unlawfully, riotously, and routously make a great noise, riot, and disturbance, and did then and there remain and continue armed as aforesaid, making such noise, riot, and disturbance for the space of an hour and more, then next following, to the great disturbance and terror not only of the liege subjects of Our Lady the Queen there being and residing, but of all other the liege subjects of Our said Lady the Queen then passing and repassing in and along the Queen's common highway there, in contempt of Our said Lady the Queen and her laws, to the evil example of all others in the like case offending and against the peace of Our Lady the Queen, her crown and dignity.

II.—That they on the 17th day of April, 1899, being unlawfully assembled together and arrayed in warlike manner in a certain public street and highway situated in British Kowloon, in this colony, unlawfully and to the great terror and disturbance of divers liege subjects of our Lady the Queen then and there being did make an affray in contempt of our said Lady the Queen and her laws, to the evil example of all others in the like case offending and against the peace of our Lady the Queen, her crown and dignity.

Mr. H. L. Dennys, Crown Solicitor, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Gedge for Chung Shan.

Lieutenant Barrett, re-called, said—I was at Taipohu on the 16th April. At about one o'clock p.m. on that day the British flag was hoisted there by Mr. Stewart Lockhart, who read out the proclamation stating that from then the surrounding country was British territory. On the 17th at about 1 p.m. the troops were turned out to repulse the enemy who had assembled on the surrounding heights. Certain people attacked us and we drove them back as far as Pat-heung. On the way to Pat-heung we came to a pass. There were something between one thousand and two thousand men on the other side. They were armed with small cannon, gingsals, and smooth bore muskets. We saw no rifles, but we thought we heard rifle shots. We advanced through the pass and the enemy retired, going on to the plain on the other side. I heard and saw missiles fired at us, and Major Brown, of the A. M. S. was hit in the arm by one of these missiles and one of the men of the Hongkong Regiment was hit on the wrist with a spent bullet. After getting to the bottom of the pass on the Pat-heung side defendants were brought in and handed over to me. When first defendant was handed to me I also received a German made revolver with five or six barrels. Five rounds, including three expended, were handed over to me and also some loose cartridges. He was wearing a round peaked hat with a brass button. I understand that it was a Chinese official button. I received no arms with second defendant. With third defendant I received a knife and a sword. I also received a sword with fourth defendant. All the arms are at Taipohu. I did not see defendants until they were handed over to me.

Abdula Khan said—I am a havildar in the Hongkong Regiment, my number being 572. On the 17th April last about 5 p.m. I was about four miles to the west of Taipohu at a pass leading to Pat-heung. Fighting was going on between our regiment and some Chinese on the hills. I saw the fourth defendant, who attacked us and was close to our ammunition. He wanted to take some away. There were three others with him. I seized fourth defendant, who had a very sharp sword in his hand. Fourth defendant tried to strike Ayoub Khan with the sword, but I hit him with my rifle and knocked him down and Ayoub Khan took the sword from him. The men had with them two guns, a long one and a short one, the long one being carried by two men and the other by one man. When these three men ran away they took these two guns away with them. Subsequently fourth defendant was taken to camp and handed over to Lieutenant Barrett. The men were about 350 paces away from me when they were about to attack the ammunition. They were about ten paces from the ammunition carriers.

Cross-examined by Mr. Gedge—I have not seen third defendant before to-day, except when he was before the officer.

Ayoub Khan said—I am No. 940 in the Hongkong Regiment. On the 17th April about 5 p.m. I and Lieutenant Barrett were four or five miles to the west of Taipohu. There was some fighting going on. My attention was called to four men, of whom defendant was one. They had two guns and a sword between them, fourth defendant having the sword. One of the guns—the long one—was being carried by two of the Chinese. I and another caught fourth defendant, who was taken down to the camp.

Cross-examined by Mr. Gedge—I saw third defendant in camp. He was being held by a man who said he had been shot at by him. Third defendant had his hands and feet tied up. The man who had been shot at by third defendant was named Goolistan.

Naik Goolistan Khan, another member of the Hongkong Regiment, gave evidence, deposing to seeing first and third defendants in the pass. He did not notice third defendant until the latter had fired two shots at him from near a rock and a tree ten or eleven paces away. He (witness) pointed his rifle at him and then threw him on to the ground. A revolver was taken from him and also some ammunition. The man was afterwards taken into camp.

In answer to Mr. Gedge, witness said he was quite certain third defendant was not arrested near a house.

Said Hamid, another member of the Hongkong Regiment, deposed to seeing the third man on the hill-side standing on a rock. He had a pistol in his hand, and fired at Goolistan. They then seized him. He was quite certain third defendant was the man he saw firing from the rock.

Jumna Khan, also belonging to Hongkong Regiment, gave evidence inculpating first defendant. He said that the latter had a revolver and a knife with him and fired at him.

Mr. Gedge, at this point, said he was instructed to appear for first and second defendants as well as for the third defendant.

The further hearing was adjourned until Thursday, at 2.15 p.m.

At the Magistracy on the 4th May the five rebels taken prisoners were again brought before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith to answer for their delinquencies.

Lieutenant Barrett, recalled, said that on the previous occasion when he gave evidence he said that when the first defendant was handed over to him he also received a German-made revolver with five or six chambers. He should have said third defendant. With first defendant he received a knife and a sword, and not with third defendant.

The cross-examination of Lieutenant Barrett was deferred.

Jumna Khan, cross-examined by Mr. Gedge, said that when first defendant came to him he had on a white coat reaching just below his hips and also wore the hat produced. On the day in question No. 2 section of the regiment burnt some villages. No Chinese came to his section and chin-chinned them and asked them not to burn their villages. On the 16th April second defendant came to his section and he understood that the Captain spoke to him about the hoisting of the flag. He did not see second defendant chin-chinning the Captain, either on that or any other day. The first time he saw first defendant was on the 17th April. Witness was amongst the 100 who went with Captain Berger on the Saturday, April 15th, and was present at the first fight.

Re-examined by Mr. Dennys, witness said he saw smoke rising from their right. It was caused by burning hay a long way off.

Baghali Khan, a private in the Hongkong Regiment, said that on the afternoon of the 17th April he was with some other men of the regiment under Lieutenant Barrett. They were in a pass about four miles from Taipohu. He saw second defendant. He had something in his hand. He thought it was a knife. When he went up to catch him he threw it on to the ground. Second defendant was waving his hands to the Chinese. He appeared to be an officer. The man was dressed in a long coat and had nothing on his head. He was waving his hands to all the rebel forces.

Answering Mr. Gedge, witness said he saw second defendant on the 16th April, when he was imprisoned by Captain Berger, who after-

wards let him go. He did not see second defendant chin-chin anybody. He was sitting on the ground when he saw him on the 16th. Before the 17th the troops had set fire to hay, but he was not aware that they burned any villages before that day. He was not aware that second defendant asked Captain Berger or any one else not to burn his village.

Re-examined by Mr. Denny, witness said he first saw second defendant on the 16th, and he saw him again on the 17th acting as an officer he thought.

Fazl Ahmed Shad, another private in the Hongkong Regiment, said that on the 17th April, at 5 p.m., he was near a pass beyond Taipohu when he saw third defendant, who was standing on a rock near a tree. He had a revolver in his hand and he heard him fire once. He did not know whether he fired more or not. Gulistan hit him with a rifle and then witness seized him and another man got hold of the revolver. There were some cartridges in the revolver unfired.

Answering Mr. Gedge, witness said when he saw third defendant on the rock he was about ten paces away from him. The man did not show himself on the rock until they had passed him and then he fired. The man was below him when the shot was fired. He did not think he was mistaken and that it was someone else who was standing on the rock.

Lieutenant Barrett, on being cross-examined by Mr. Gedge, said he heard that proclamations had been posted prior to the hoisting of the flag. The area was a pretty large one. He did not know what means were taken to inform the inhabitants that the flag was to be hoisted. He saw second defendant on the 16th. He did not see any houses burned on the 16th and 17th. He saw haystacks burned, and it was quite possible that houses might have caught. He never saw either first, second, or third defendant come and chin-chin any European not to burn their villages. He did not know whether the enemy belonged to the villages on the spot or came from elsewhere.

Re-examined by Mr. Denny, witness said some of the villagers were friendly, and he never saw any friendly villagers arrested.

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

In reply to His Worship, defendants elected to be dealt with summarily.

Mr. Gedge made a formal application to put his clients in the box.

Mr. Denny—A: witnesses for each other? If my friend wishes to put them into the box as witnesses for themselves he cannot do it.

Mr. Gedge said he wished them to be witnesses for each other.

His Worship said he should want authority before allowing this.

Wan Tan Min said he was a schoolmaster residing in the same village—Tung Ah—as first defendant. He knew second defendant, who belonged to the Choy Hip village. Both these villages were two or three li from Taipohu. He knew third defendant, who also belonged to Choy Hip. He did not know fourth defendant. The first three defendants belonged to the Lum Tsun district. He knew that the district was taken over by the British on the 16th April. He remembered the 17th April. He was in his school in the Tung Ah village. In the afternoon of that day some of the Hongkong Regiment passed his school, going in the direction of Pat-heung. First defendant was at home that day. He saw him leave home, wearing a hat and a long coat. He walked towards the soldiers. A soldier pushed him, and he walked in front of the soldiers towards Pat-heung. He had no arms with him. He did not see him try to fight the soldiers. It was not true he led a body of Chinese to fight the soldiers. There was no fight in his village. The fighting was towards Pat-heung. First defendant acted as a guide to the Hongkong soldiers. He saw him chin-chin them. First defendant was wearing a long coat and a hat because he was the oldest man in the village, but he was not the taipo. He did not know the people who fought with the Hongkong Regiment at Pat-heung, which was a long way off, but they came from other districts far from his village. Second defendant was the elder of his village. He did not see him on the 17th April, but he saw him on the 16th in the new market place called Taiwai. He saw him go with several

others to see Mr. May to tell him that the people of his village would not fight against the troops. He did not go with them. He had not seen third defendant for a long time. First defendant's two sons were employed by Her Majesty. He had seen them before.

In answer to Mr. Denny, witness said the pass leading to Pat-heung—the top of the pass—was six or seven li from the village. When the Hongkong Regiment passed his village he was teaching the boys in his school. It was between twelve and one, and he did not see first defendant after that time. First defendant was walking about three yards in front of the soldiers.

In answer to His Worship, witness said he remained in the school when the regiment passed. The school broke up at twelve, which was the usual time, and resumed between one and two. He did not follow the Hongkong Regiment.

The case was further adjourned until Monday next.

AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE FILIPINOS SUE FOR PEACE. GENERAL LUNA SURRENDERS TO GENERAL McARTHUR.

The latest news from the Philippines goes to show that the Filipinos are beginning to see the hopelessness of the struggle in which they are engaged.

On 23th April General Antonio Luna, who had been hotly pursued by General McArthur, surrendered with a large body of insurgents, with all their arms, without fighting.

It is reported also that Aguinaldo has asked Major-General Otis for an armistice for three weeks, but that the request has been refused.

FIGHTING NEAR MALOLOS.

We take the following from the *American*:—
Manila, 25th April.

The insurgent war is still on and as the hospital boats steamed up the river Sunday night from the captain of the port's office, they bore the true facts and told the tale, for their precious freight aboard consisted of the bodies of seven dead and forty-three wounded. All were members of either the 4th cavalry, the Nebraska, or Iowa regiments, who encountered the insurgents, ambushed in strong force, at the two forks of the river and about four miles due east of Malolos.

The following are the facts gleaned from a major who was through the encounter:—

Three troops of the 4th cavalry, who were in the flying column, went out opposite the above place and were suddenly attacked. Major Bell, who was in charge at the time, was reading his despatches by the light of matches struck by his courier, when the enemy suddenly opened up and a hail of bullets was the reception tendered from three sides. The fire was returned by the cavalry, when the Nebraskans came to their relief but not before a few were wounded and the insurgent had captured one of their brave comrades, who was at once carried within the insurgent lines.

Many were the surprises, and anger burned deep in the hearts of the Nebraska men when at 11 o'clock it was whispered down the line that Colonel Stotsenburg was dead, pierced by three mauler bullets, and that close in death beside him was lying the body of Lieutenant Sisson, mortally wounded, and who expired before he reached the city. The firing became more deadly as every man made every bullet count.

The fight was now general and it was daylight when the Iowa came up to reinforce the cavalry and Nebraskans. The battle raged fiercely all morning until noon, when the insurgent force, which had strongly entrenched itself, was forced to retreat with heavy loss.

The following is the list of killed and wounded as far as could be ascertained yesterday:—Col. J. M. Stotsenburg, Lieut. L. Sisson, Co. K.; Quartermaster Sergeant J. B. Storch, Co. B; Sergeant C. A. Melleck, Co. H; Private Otto Kustomborder, Co. H; all of the 1st Nebraska regiment, while the other two were members of the 4th cavalry.

26th April.

Major General MacArthur's lines were again busy Monday afternoon and night, the firing

extending all along the front of the Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska regiments, while one battalion of the Iowa was twice engaged.

The advance movement being made on Calumpit was continued, but up to yesterday noon that city was still in the hands of the rebels, who made several desperate stands in all three engagements. Yesterday all was reported, quiet, only slight desultory firing being done.

The insurgent loss is figured at 80 killed and double that number wounded, while the American loss was five or six killed and twenty-two wounded. The killed and wounded were brought to the city yesterday at one o'clock by train, and were conveyed to the hospital on the launch New York.

THE BACKBONE OF THE INSURRECTION BROKEN.

The native markets are now back to the old state before the present insurrection began and the supply is more than equal to the demand, hence many of the city restaurants, have reduced their charges to what was formerly the price. Fruit is again becoming plentiful, and all kinds of fowl can now be obtained. This is a good sign, say the local dealers, that the backbone of the insurrection is broken and that peace will soon reign.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE AMERICANS REFUTED.

Under the heading "A true account of Aguinaldo" the *Singapore Free Press* devotes two and one-half columns of its space to a history of Aguinaldo. Written by Howard W. Bray. The writer first scores the editor of the *Review of Reviews* for the article on Aguinaldo published last February, which, he asserts is absolutely false and misleading, and then he proceeds to print the "true" statement. In this true account the following sentence occurs:

"His humane conduct of the war alone will always remain the brightest page in the history of his regime and an example that might well be followed by some of the nations boasting of their civilization, especially by the United States, whose reckless atrocities committed lately in Manila on defenceless women and children, and on their fellow citizens in November last in their own state of Carolina."

If the entire article contains no more truth than this sentence, and we see no reason why it should, then it can be branded as a "fairy" story. Mark well the first few words of the sentence, "His humane conduct of the war alone," and then remember how the bodies of some of our killed have been found on the battle field, mutilated in an outrageous manner, cut and disfigured only as could be done by fiends incarnate. Remember the fate of poor Ryan, who was taken prisoner only recently, was murdered by the insurgents, mutilated in every possible way, and then his body tied to a raft and sent floating down the river to his former comrades. This may be called "humane conduct" and probably is according to the standard of the East Indian and his associates, but we have another name for it.

Regarding the "reckless atrocities committed lately in Manila on defenceless women and children," we plead absolute ignorance. We have been in Manila since its occupation by the American forces and have enquired diligently regarding this statement but failed to find an instance where defenceless women and children have been molested, but instead there are many instances where native women and children have been permitted to enter the American lines and have been fed by the soldiers from their own rations, in fact, this occurs after almost every engagement. Were it necessary to go further in denying such a statement, we have only to point to the hospital where hundreds of wounded insurgent soldiers are receiving the same care, attention and medical treatment as our own wounded.

These statements can be proven true while we know that this "true account of Aguinaldo" is not true.

THE AMERICANS UTILISE NATIVE TROOPS.

The *Freedom of April* 22nd says:—

At Bacolod, the capital of Negros Island, two companies of native troops of one hundred men and three commissioned officers each have been sworn into the United States service by Governor General Smith, of the 1st Cal. Vol. Out of the total number of applicants only

fifteen were rejected which speaks well for the physical qualities of these island people. Capt. Conley, Co. A., 1st Cal. has been acting as drill master for the native troops. They have discarded their odd assortment of antique fire arms, spears and bows and arrows; are now provided with Springfields and are policing Bacolod and patrolling the surrounding country. A number are acting as scouts with Co. A. and E. which are now out on a ten day's reconnoiter into the interior.

THE CAPTURE OF CALUMPIT.

THE TOWN BURNED.

MESSRS. WARNER, BARNES & CO.'S SUGAR MILLS DAMAGED.

Manila, 26th April.

At nine o'clock yesterday morning General McArthur's army, quartered at Malolos, began the advance toward Calumpit. General Hale was about two miles north and one mile east, so that an hour's march would bring the two lines in communication. General McArthur remained with General Wheaton's brigade, following the line of the railroad which carried the armoured cars. Part of the Kansas regiment was on the left of the track, spreading over to the right where it joined the Montana men; the Montana right was in touch with the 4th Cavalry and Utah guns which were being brought up, following the west bank of the Bagbag river. Just across the river was Hale's brigade with the Nebraska on the left flank, the South Dakota and Iowa and the two mountain guns.

Over a mile and a half was covered by this long line before a shot was fired, and then there was a temporary halt. About three miles from Malolos heavy trenches were discovered about a mile ahead. Major Bell's scouting parties had located these trenches several days previously, so the men were on the watch. The works ran directly across the road, and for two hundred feet in front of them the track was destroyed.

The fight was opened by a twenty-five minutes' shelling from the train. The two armoured cars were pushed down the track until the range was about 1,300 yards, and pandemonium reigned while Gatlings, Hotchkiss, and the 6-pounder were turned loose. Over on the right, Major Young with three field guns got into position and dropped his shrapnel over the trenches. Beyond a few scattering shots there was no reply until Hale began advancing across the open fields to the bend in the Bagbag river. Then the enemy opened up and poured in a terrific fire. The men continued advancing, by rushes, firing as they ran, until the river bank was reached, and there they lay down, less than sixty yards from the opposite side, and commenced a fight against bomb-proof trenches. The odds were most uneven, but the artillery following the advance forced its way out on the point at the junction of the two rivers, and trained its shells at 10 yards range on the insurgent trenches. Something had to give way soon, and the natives finally gave up and ran for the woods, leaving a force of men to man the loopholes.

Hale's troops crossed the river, some fording up to their chins, others swimming, finally reaching the bank, and occupied the trenches.

On the left the fight was not so heavy as most of the enemy rushed to the relief of the trenches on their left when Hale made his attack. Reconnoitering parties were sent across the river and into the woods, finding several trenches deserted, but the natives were still near the city. About 4 o'clock the enemy set fire to the town, but steadily opposed any advance of small parties. The troops camped along the Bagbag River until this morning, when it proposed to enter the city.

Up to six o'clock last night Calumpit itself had not been occupied by the troops. A river still separates the town, and as the bridge is destroyed some time must be occupied in getting the Army across. In all probability Calumpit is now ours, although splendid opportunities were available for a still further resistance.

Our loss was 6 killed and 28 wounded. Among the wounded are Major Eager, 1st Nebraska, and Lieuts. Pratt and Lapp, South

Dakota. The enemy's loss is estimated at 100 killed and wounded.

27th April.

The Engineers have succeeded in repairing the damaged Railroad bridge near Calumpit to such an extent that the hull carts can be taken over. The steel span that the insurgents cut down was about 50 feet long and stone foundation on the bank was half gone. In addition the water runs deep right up to the edge of the banks, so the work of throwing a new span was a matter of a great difficulty, especially when the limited means and number of the Engineers Corps are taken into consideration.

Yesterday morning many of the hull carts had succeeded in crossing without mishap, carrying over rations and supplies to Wheaton's brigade. As soon as the troops had breakfasted and received additional ammunition the Montana and Kansas Regiments began the advance from the road bank of the Bagbag River. The left of the line remained in the open fields while the right entered the woods lying directly behind the old trenches at the junction of the Bagbag and Chico Rivers. Only a few moments passed before firing began from a trench beyond a small stream flowing directly across the line of march. Another smaller detachment opened up from the right, obtaining a partial flank fire. The advantage was only temporary. Under the heavy fire of the Montanas the natives deserted the position, leaving several killed, and retreated with all haste toward Calumpit.

In the meantime the Kansas, on the left, managed to stir up the insurgents in a trench across the Rio Grande River, thereby making the row decidedly lively. The Artillery was hurried up into position and shelled the works for several minutes while the Infantry rested its fire. Over to the extreme right the two mountain guns of General Hale's Brigade began dropping shrapnel into the churchyard.

Men who were under fire report that the natives used cannon and a rapid-fire gun, but no damage was accomplished by this long-looked-for artillery. A little before noon, the men reached the suburbs of the town and began a hot street fight, which lasted several minutes. General Hale's brigade being on the extreme right and closer to the town than those on the left wing, had splendid opportunities for pouring in a flank fire across Wheaton's front. Then the rebels cleared out and Calumpit became American. The loss was: Montana, two killed and three wounded; Kansas, one killed. Nine wounded natives were brought into the hospital.

Manila, 28th April.

The battle of the Rio Grande yesterday morning marked a period in the war. The victory was by far the most important since the signal repulse of February 5th. The effect upon the insurgent army must be far-reaching. Never in the course of the fighting has such strong opposition been encountered, and never has the defeat been more sudden and complete.

The battle opened at daylight, with the insurgents strongly intrenched for three miles along the north bank of the Rio Grande. They used a small, muzzle-loading brass cannon, chiefly noticeable for its loud reports. On the south bank were the Kansas and Montana men lying in the long grass and hastily constructed earthworks. On the right of the line were three guns of the 6th and Utah Artillery. For three hours it was give and take, with scarcely a pause, save to allow the heated rifles to cool.

The great steel bridge that spans the Rio Grande was so damaged that the men could pass over only very slowly, and with great danger, besides being under fire from the opposite trenches.

Finally two men of the Kansas regiment slipped down the bank a few hundred yards below the bridge, jumped into the water and began swimming to the opposite bank, carrying a rope with them. Hardly a man who saw the act felt that it could succeed, but slowly and strongly they struck out, advancing directly in the face of the enemy. While they were in the water the men poured the hottest, fastest fire they knew of into the Filipino trenches. At last the swimmers reached the opposite bank and made fast the rope. Once across there was very little danger, as the trenches were too high to admit of a direct fire below. A raft

was hastily thrown together, and Colonel Funston and eight men began their perilous trip across, guiding themselves by the ropes. Finally, when about two companies had succeeded in crossing, the little band charged on the works from which the insurgents had begun to retreat and taking possession of the enemy's trenches they poured in an enfilading fire that broke the backbone of the long river fortifications. The rest of the Kansas men crossed over the bridge, under fire, in single file, quickly followed by the Montana regiment.

It was impossible to move the cannon. When the insurgents deserted the trenches the main body retreated to the left, entering some thick woods, the others defending the trenches near the bridge deserted their cannon, and escaped up the railroad track, where several were killed before they had run 200 yards.

Two companies of Kansas men struck into the woods after the flying natives and stirred up a large number of soldiers who had evidently been waiting to relieve the men in the trenches. While the fight was going on at long range, the general and others posted on the railroad were watching a long wavering line that was steadily advancing from the direction of Macabebe—Nearer and nearer it came until finally it was possible to distinguish two long lines of skirmishers drawn up in regular order of battle, firing line and supports, with a body in company formation in the rear.

Fully two thousand natives were drawn up on an open plain in battle array. It could hardly be believed; but the South Dakota regiment was brought over in case of need, and when the enemy was within 2,000 yards range General Wheaton order the firing to commence. At the same time the Kansas companies opened up on the edge of the woods. At the first volley the enemy dropped flat on the ground and returned the fire. In twenty minutes they got up and commenced to march to the rear. The range was so great that practically no damage was done by either side, yet they continued to retreat. A single mounted officer dashed up and down the lines, apparently doing his utmost to drive his men back. At last they did turn and come on at the double time, but when the fire was opened again all desire to come nearer seemed to cease and they commenced an orderly retreat, going off in the direction of Macabebe.

Wheaton then resumed his advance and succeeded in reaching Apalit, four and one-half miles beyond Calumpit, taking three lines of trenches on the way. Our loss was one Montana private killed and six men wounded, including Captain Jensen and Major Miller.

Thirty-seven prisoners were taken with their arms. Some of them were caught hiding in a mud-hole with their rifles buried in the mud. On the approach of the soldiers they waved a white shirt in sign of surrender.

About 4 o'clock a heavy thunder and rain storm set in, putting a stop to the operations. The Army went into camp near Apalit.

Messrs Warner, Barnes & Co.'s sugar mills, situated on the south bank of the Rio Grande, were partially destroyed by fire when the rebels burned the town.—*Manila Times*.

THE POSITION AT CEBU.

CEBU, 18th April.

The formation of a permanent organization of the native government here was effected yesterday. Delegates from all the outlying provinces of the island and their presidents, were received and entertained by Col. Hamer. Julio Florente was elected President, vice Louia Flores, who was President of the Provisional Government. It was expected that the province presidents would sign allegiance to the United States, but several of them refused to do so, saying there were several hundred malcontents in their provinces who would have to be paid off and disbanded before this step could be taken. Public subscriptions are now in circulation to raise the necessary funds for this purpose. Notwithstanding this discontent among a few, the general sentiment seems to be favourable to the United States authorities.

The Idaho Regiment is expected here shortly. It has not as yet been decided as to whether this will relieve the battalion of the 23rd that is here now, or not. When the Idahos arrive here they will be separated so as to occupy the several

important towns on the island. No opposition to this scheme is expected.

The post office will soon move from the back room it now occupies in the government building, to a large and commodious room in the front of the same building. Mr. Fealy, who is in charge of postal affairs here, has lately returned from a trip inland, where he was well treated, and from where he brought a fine specimen of the finny inhabitants of the inland streams. Mr. Montreif, his able interpreter and assistant, has lately established postal connection with the island of Leyte, which has not as yet been taken possession of by Uncle Sam.

Large numbers of locusts have been lately devastating the plantations. It is reported that crops are completely ruined, and aid is asked for by the unlucky planters. The well-to-do residents are endeavouring to ascertain the extent of the damage, with an idea of alleviating any suffering there may be on this account.

La Justicia, the only paper published here, comes out this week with an editorial tirade against the American Commissioners' proclamation, and says the Philippine people will stand by their own government until their race is exterminated. The editor is a Spaniard, and he is evidently making a grand-stand play in this kind of talk, although it is decidedly problematical as to what he expects to gain. A movement has been on foot for the establishment of an American paper, but there are no facilities at this time for its production.—*Manila Times*.

THE COLONY'S FINANCES.

The financial returns of the Colonial Treasurer for 1898 are published in the *Gazette*. The revenue was \$2,918,159, an increase on the 1897 revenue of \$231,244, while the expenditure amounted to \$2,841,805, an increase of \$200,395.

In revenue the principal increases were as follows:—Assessed taxes \$37,482, fines \$28,579, opium monopoly \$71,646, stamps \$74,889, certificates to Chinese entering America \$18,600, Sunday cargo-working permits \$14,075, postage \$68,563, and profit on subsidiary coins \$33,028. In all fifty-six items show an increase and twenty-six items a decrease, but the latter are all inconsiderable except light dues, which show a decrease of \$62,531, due to the abolition of the Gap Rock light dues, and \$13,673 for official signatures.

On the expenditure side of the account there are increases in seventeen items and decreases in twelve items. The principal increases are:—Pensions \$23,386, Post Office \$34,481, Military expenditure \$42,405, and public works extraordinary \$106,665. The principal decrease are:—Audit department \$4,717, Fire Brigade \$7,742, miscellaneous services \$16,457 and public works recurrent \$22,004.

The statement of assets and liabilities shows that the assets amount to \$1,089,802, of which \$995,000 is represented by subsidiary coins on the spot and in transit. The liabilities amount to \$376,444, showing a balance of assets over liabilities of \$213,358, from which has to be deducted the balance of the 1893 loan \$123,334, reducing the net balance to \$90,024.

SPECIAL CHORAL SERVICE.

"THE DAUGHTER OF JAIKUS."

The special choral service held in St. John's Cathedral on Tuesday afternoon was especially well attended, almost every available seat being occupied. The whole service was a great success and the best of the kind which has taken place for some time.

By way of introduction Sullivan's evening hymn "O gladsome light," which was unaccompanied, was tastefully given by a carefully selected choir, and this was followed by the motett for soprano solo and chorus "Hear my prayer" (Mendelssohn), in which the solo was taken by Mrs. Lowson most admirably, notwithstanding that she was labouring under the disadvantage of a slight cold. The principal attraction, however, was Stainer's popular sacred cantata "The Daughter of Jairus." Here Mrs. Lowson was again the principal, by far the greater portion of the solos falling to her, and none who had the pleasure of hearing her will deny that she acquitted herself exceedingly well, all her efforts being so uniformly good that

it would be difficult to point to any one which was more noticeable than the others. The other soloists were Miss Murray Bain, Mr. G. P. Lammert, Mr. E. Mirow, and Mr. C. R. Crispin. Miss Bain joined Mr. Mirow in the duet "Love divine! all love excelling," which was very sweetly rendered. The tenor song "My hope is in the Everlasting" was well sung by Mr. Lammert, and Mr. Crispin was heard to advantage in "My little daughter lieth at the point of death." The cantata had evidently been most carefully rehearsed and consequently was given in a manner creditable to all concerned. Mr. G. Grimbly efficiently performed the duties of organist; and Mr. A. G. Ward proved an expert conductor. By permission of Colonel Mainwaring and Officers several member of the Band of the Royal Welch Fusiliers assisted in the accompaniments.

ATTACK ON A YOUNG LADY ON KENNEDY ROAD.

A correspondent informs us that on Saturday afternoon at about four o'clock, a young girl was out with her two young brothers for a bicycle ride along Kennedy Road when she was attacked by three Chinamen, who caught hold of the handle-bar of her bicycle, threw her to the ground, seized her by the throat, covered her mouth and eyes, and then snatched off her bracelet. They endeavoured to pull off her gold ring and would have snatched at her ear-rings and torn her ears had it not been for the fact that they heard footsteps coming round the bend of the road, which made them take to their heels. The two brothers were far ahead of the young lady and therefore could not render her any assistance. The footsteps that caused the footpads to desist from their work were those of two young gentlemen who, the correspondent suggests, to say the least, could have escorted the affrighted and trembling girl home when she told them of the affair, if it was too late to render any other aid. Along the road one policeman was seen.

THE HON. J. J. BELL-IRVING'S DEPARTURE.

The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving left for home in the *China* on Tuesday. The previous evening he met the St. Andrew's Society, of which he was President, and was presented with a handsome souvenir in the form of a silver quail, which was designed and provided by Messrs. Falconer and Co. The bowl rests upon a stand formed by four silver dragons and there are two solid gold shields, one bearing a suitable inscription and the other St. Andrew's coat of arms, the souvenir being further adorned with the words, "Come fill this up with barley bree as generous as your mind, and join us in this generous toast. The whole of humankind."

FIRE ON A KEROSENE STEAMER.

At about half-past seven on Tuesday morning it was discovered that a fire had broken out in the stoke-hold of the kerosene steamer the *Sabine Rickmers*, which was lying at Laichikok. She was at once removed from the Wharf to Stonecutter's Island, and the police fire launch, in charge of Captain Superintendent May, appeared on the scene, the fire was soon put out.

DISAPPEARANCE OF A HONGKONG MERCHANT.

For some days past the police have been busily engaged endeavouring to discover the whereabouts of Mr. H. H. Kirch (Kirch and Co., Icehouse Street), who has been missing since the 26th April. He left his residence at the Peak on the morning in question at his usual time for business, but did not present himself at the office. The latest that can be found out about him is that he purchased some morphia from a chemist's shop in Queen's Road. This, however, was nothing unusual for him to do, so that not much importance is attached to it.

THE NEW LIGHT REGULATIONS.

THE WISE VIRGINS AND THE FOOLISH RULERS.

1st May.

Ladies going out to tea this afternoon would do well to reflect upon the parable of the wise and foolish virgins and see that their lamps are trimmed, lest haply they should be detained until after the hour of sunset (6.25 p.m.) and then find they have no light to lighten them through the electrically and Welsbach-burnerly illuminated roads on their homeward way. In that case they will be liable, with or without any warrant, to be lawfully stopped, seized, apprehended, and detained by any member of the Police Force (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., for instance), and thereupon to be taken before a Police Magistrate (Mr. T. Sercombe Smith to wit) to be dealt with according to law, the said law imposing a penalty not exceeding fifty dollars, or, in default of payment thereof, imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months with or without hard labour. Common males, on their part, may imagine themselves so many budding Diogenes carrying lamps in the light in the hope of finding a wise man, a quest in which they will have little success if their search be directed towards the ranks of the Government Service. But however hopeless the quest, and however brilliant the illumination of the streets and roads, they must nevertheless carry a lamp, if they ride in a chair, or they, too, will be liable to be lawfully stopped, seized, apprehended, and detained, etc., etc. The prayers in Church yesterday for our rulers and governors might well have been offered with a special fervency, for the governors and rulers aforesaid stand in need of a lot of praying for. They do those things that they ought not to do and leave undone those that they ought to do, as witness their shocking neglect in the matter of taking over Her Majesty's new territory and their irritating activity in imposing on the people burdens grievous to be borne, as in the case of the light regulations.

4th May.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OFFICIAL DISTINCTION.

Recent occurrences in connection with the New Territory have resulted in bringing the Hon. F. H. May into worldwide notoriety. The American papers publish the following, which purports to be dated Hongkong, 4th April:—"It is reported that the Chinese have captured Captain Francis Henry May, superintendent of the Hongkong police." The *San Francisco Chronicle* appends the following biographical details:—"Captain Francis Henry May, who has been Superintendent of Police at Hongkong since 1893, and superintendent of the Victoria Jail and fire brigade there since 1896, is the fourth son of the late J. A. C. May, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland. He is now in his fortieth year. He received special decorations for services rendered during the coolie strike and the great plague of 1894." If our popular Captain Superintendent would only run in a lady some evening for being out after sunset without a light he might get recommended for the Victoria Cross. But another suggestion occurs. Why should not the Governor take up this perilous duty himself? From a telegram published in another column it will be seen that the Viceroy of India, desiring to familiarise himself with the working of the railway system, has taken over the personal direction of the Public Works Department for a term. Why should not Sir Henry Blake follow Lord Curzon's example and familiarise himself with the working of the pinprick system by taking over the administration of the Light Regulations Department, which at present seems to be in a state of chaos? Some persons have provided themselves with lights, in accordance with the new regulations; many have not; but the electric light and Welsbach burners shine impartially on the just and the unjust and nothing seems to happen. It seems hard that those who have taken the trouble to provide themselves with lights should not at least be permitted to enjoy the legitimate fun of seeing their less law-abiding neighbours run in.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 2.45 p.m. on Wednesday, the 26th April—present:—Messrs. R. M. Gray, (Chairman), A. McConachie (Vice-Chairman), J. J. Bell-Irving, W. Poate, H. A. Ritchie, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and E. C. Wilcox (Secretary).—

(MINUTES)

The minutes of the previous meeting (held on 20th March) were read and confirmed.

ABSENT MEMBER.

A letter from Mr. Haupt to the Secretary, regretting his inability, through illness, to attend, was read.

ELECTION OF SUB-COMMITTEES.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, the following were elected as Arbitration Committee:—Messrs. J. J. Bell-Irving, A. Haupt, W. Poate, N. A. Siebs, and T. H. Whitehead; and the following as members of the Corresponding Committee, Messrs. R. M. Gray, A. McConachie, H. A. Ritchie, and T. Jackson.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The Chairman announced that Mr. W. S. Bailey and the Eastern Extension A. and C. Telegraph Company, Limited, had been elected since the annual meeting. He then proposed the election of Messrs. McGregor Brothers and Gow to membership.

This was seconded by the Vice-Chairman and carried unanimously.

THE MANILA OBSERVATORY AND THE STORM WARNINGS.

Read a further letter from the Government, in continuation of previous correspondence, dated 15th April, stating that, consequent on the representations made from Hongkong on the above subject, instructions had been issued by the Military Governor of the Philippines to the Director of the Manila Observatory to continue to send storm warnings to Hongkong as formerly.

A letter had been, on the 11th April, addressed to the Rev. Father Algué, Director of the Manila Observatory, in reply to his communication of the 9th March, enclosing a copy of the resolution passed at the annual meeting of the 5th April condemning Dr. Doberck's attack on the Directors of the Manila Observatory, and also conveying the thanks of the Chamber to the latter for the good service rendered by them.

It was decided to send these letters for publication in the Press.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAPH CODE VOCABULARY.

Read letter from the Sydney Chamber of Commerce dated 8th March, enclosing copy of a letter addressed by that body to the Director of the International Telegraph Administration, Berne, protesting against the proposal to issue a new "Official Vocabulary" without consecutive numbering of the words therein, and requesting the co-operation of this Chamber in such protest.

After some discussion, it was resolved to address the International Administration at Berne on the subject, and forward copy of the letter to the Sydney Chamber.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING CONSOLIDATION ORDINANCE, 1899.

The Secretary reported that the sub-Committee appointed to consider this Bill had completed their labours, and that all that remained to be done was to address the Government on the subject. On one or two points, however, information was needed, but the Acting Attorney General had been unable, through pressure of work, to give him an appointment.

THE DISTURBANCES IN THE KOWLOON HINTERLAND.

It having been decided that, in view of the disturbances in the New Territory, and the apparent necessity for reconsideration of the position (vide Mr. Chamberlain's speech in the House of Commons, reported by Renter, on the 19th April), it would be advisable to address a despatch to the Government by way of strengthening its hands in any representations going forward; such despatch was, on the 21st April,

sent in, suggesting that the northern frontier should be altered to embrace Shamohun, that the Chinese officials should be removed from Kowloon city, and that the lease should be greatly extended or converted into an absolute cession. A reply was received on the 25th April stating that the views of the Chamber would be represented to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

THE CHINESE CUSTOMS STATIONS AND THE NEW TERRITORY.

A letter was, on the same date, also addressed to the Government, asking what steps had been taken to secure the removal of the Customs Stations to Chinese Territory.

To this also a reply had been received on the 25th April, stating that the Customs functions have ceased within the area of the New Territory, but the officials had been permitted to occupy the three stations of Capstoon, Fotochow, and Cheung-chow until accommodation on their own frontier has been provided, but not later than October next, and on condition that no coercive functions will be performed by them in the waters of the Colony.

The Secretary reported that copies of all the correspondence on both these subjects had that day been forwarded to the local Press for publication.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND QUARANTINE.

Since the annual meeting information had been received, through the Government, that medical inspection would be enforced at Yokohama, Kobe, and Nagasaki against all vessels arriving from or through Hongkong with cattle, sheep, or their bones, hides, &c., from 4th April; and at Shanghai, from 22nd April, on vessels arriving from Hongkong or Formosa. Copies of the above intimations had been supplied to the local papers by the Secretary.

REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN TRADE MARKS IN JAPAN.

Read letter from a correspondent in Tokyo, offering to assist foreign merchants in making applications for registration of their trade marks in Japan.

Further information on this subject can be obtained by members of the Chamber, if they desire it, from the Secretary.

RESIGNATION OF MR. BELL-IRVING.

Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving—Mr. Chairman, as I shall be leaving the colony in about a week for home, I now beg to tender my resignation as a member of the Committee.

The Chairman—I am sure we are all very sorry to lose Mr. Bell-Irving's services, which have been of much assistance to us, and we wish him a pleasant passage home and a good time when he gets there. (Applause.)

(Correspondence.)

THE MANILA OBSERVATORY.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 11th April, 1899.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter (with enclosures) of the 7th ult., in which you inform this Chamber that in consequence of the Director of the Hongkong Observatory having addressed the Weather Bureau of the Government of the United States of America in very unfavourable terms relative to the Manila Observatory, accusing the Directors of sending "sensational typhoon warnings to the newspapers in Hongkong," instructions have been given you to discontinue the despatch of typhoon warnings to any place outside the Philippines.

Your letter was considered at the meeting of the General Committee, held on the 20th ult., when it was resolved to address the Hongkong Government on the subject before taking action, and copies of the letter with the replies received are now enclosed.

At the annual meeting of the Chamber, held on the 5th inst., the Hon. T. H. Whitehead then proposed the following resolution, which was unanimously carried:—

"The members of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce desire to convey to the Rev. Father José Algué, S.J., the expression of their extreme regret and dissatisfaction at the unjustifiable attack made upon the Rev. Director of the Manila Observatory and his colleagues by the Director of the Hongkong Observatory, and at the consequent stoppage by the American Government of the Tele-

graphic Meteorological warnings from the Philippines. The members desire to place on record their high appreciation of the very valuable services at all times rendered by the Directors of the Meteorological Department of the Manila Observatory to the mercantile and shipping community in Hongkong and China, and their hope and expectation that in a very short time full justice will be done the Directors of the Manila Observatory by the acknowledgment of the immense practical value of their labours in the past for the public benefit and in the cause of science, and the restriction recently placed upon them being speedily removed."

It only remains for me to convey to you and your colleagues the thanks of this Chamber and of the whole commercial community of Hongkong for the good service rendered to them by the prompt and timely despatch of the storm warnings sent by you ever since the establishment of cable communication between Hongkong and Manila, and which we cannot doubt have been the means of saving many lives and much valuable property. I must add, in conclusion, that it is the hope of the Chamber that the supply of this useful information will soon be resumed.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. M. GRAY.

Chairman.

The Rev. José Algué, S.J., Directors,
Manila Observatory.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 15th April, 1899.

Sir,—With reference to my letter No. 572 of the 28th ultimo, I am directed to state for the information of the Chamber of Commerce that consequent upon the representation made by this Government on the subject, instructions have been issued by the Military Governor in the Philippine Islands to the Director of the Central Manila Observatory to continue to send storm warnings as formerly.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. G. T. BUCKLE,
p. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

OFFICIAL CODE VOCABULARY.

Sydney Chamber of Commerce,

Sydney, N.S.W., 8th March, 1897.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Dear Sir,—It having come to the knowledge of this Chamber that the International Telegraph Authorities contemplate issuing their new "Official Vocabulary" without the words being numbered, my Committee have resolved that a strong protest be entered against any "Vocabulary" in which the words are not consecutively numbered, and to invite the corporation of other Chambers in sending similar protests to the Director at Berne. It will be readily apparent to your Chamber the many commercial advantages which a numbered Vocabulary would have for both private and figure code purposes, if the use of the words therein should be made compulsory for code messages.

Many members of this Chamber are also of opinion that in issuing a new Vocabulary the International Telegraph Authorities should also issue a terminational order of words as a companion work, and I am to invite your views thereon. A complete terminational order of words would be of great assistance in deciphering mutilated words.—Yours faithfully,

HENRY CHAS. MITCHELL,
Secretary.

Sydney Chamber of Commerce,

Sydney, N.S.W., 8th March, 1899.

The Director, International Telegraph Administration, Berne, Switzerland.

Sir,—It having recently been brought to the knowledge of this Chamber that it is your intention to issue the proposed new "Official Vocabulary" without consecutive numbering of the words therein, I am directed by the Committee to enter this Chamber's strongest protest against the issue of any Vocabulary in which the words are not numbered.

It must be readily apparent to you that an unnumbered Vocabulary will be of but little commercial value, as compared with a numbered

one, and as the commercial public will eventually have to pay the major portion of cost of the proposed work, they are entitled to the most perfect and useful form of issue. Excepting the absence of consecutive numbering of all words therein, your last issue—so far as it went—was in a decidedly acceptable form.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,
HENRY CHAS. MITCHELL,
Secretary.

CABLE RATES.

The following letter from the Madras Chamber of Commerce with enclosure has been forwarded to us by the Secretary of the Hong-kong General Chamber of Commerce.—

The Chamber of Commerce,
Madras, 14th April, 1899.

Dear Sir,—I beg to enclose copy of a letter addressed by this Chamber to the Govt. of India on the question of reducing the telegraph tariff between India and Europe in the hope that you will afford your influential support in the matter.—I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. E. LAWSON, Secretary.

The Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Hong-kong.

The Chamber of Commerce,
Madras, 25th March, 1899.

Sir,—In concluding its letter dated the 25th January, 1897, to the Madras Government, communicating to this Chamber certain extracts from the Report of the Indian Delegates to the International Telegraph Conference held at Buda-Pesth, the Government of India stated that "it is a matter of great regret to Government that some reduction was not secured in the rates on telegrams between India and Europe, but it is hoped that the thorough discussion on the subject that has now taken place will pave the way to reductions being obtained at no distant date."

Since these words were written more than two years ago, nothing has been done by the Telegraph Companies concerned in the matter of a revision of their rates. The time has therefore come, it would seem, for the Chambers of Commerce in India, and the public generally, to again invite the co-operation of the Government of India in a strenuous endeavour to seek relief from the exorbitant charges which are now levied.

At the Telegraph Conference at Buda-Pesth, the chief opponent to any reduction of the charges for telegraphing between India and Europe was the Eastern Telegraph Company, whose representatives stated that though the Company was most anxious to meet the wishes of the Government of India, it regretted it could not, for financial reasons, agree to risk the loss entailed by even a sixpenny reduction without some guarantee against a diminution of revenue. They further pointed that, looking especially to the inadequacy of its Reserve Fund, the financial position of the Company was not such as to justify its facing a loss of £26,000 a year, which the stationary character of the traffic, and the negative results of a similar reduction made ten years previously, indicated as almost certain to ensue. The representatives also stated that the Company was on the verge of possible competition due to the laying of a Pacific cable, and advanced other reasons which seemed to the Company to justify it in maintaining its rates at the present very high level.

The Conference was productive of certain minor benefits so far as India is concerned, but this Chamber considers that adequate consideration was not given to the representations made by the Indian Delegates, and that the arguments advanced by the Eastern Telegraph Company were specious and ungenerous. The capital of that Company is about £7,300,000, but notwithstanding its magnitude it has been found possible to pay for each of the nine years to 1896-97 a dividend of 6½ per cent, while for 1897-98 the dividend was 7 per cent. As regards the General Reserve Fund this stood at £358,992 at the end of 1897-98, while the amount at credit of other special Funds brought the total sum in reserve up to the very considerable figure of £1,160,188. The ordinary stock of the Company stood at the same date at 175, or 75 per cent premium, while the

3½ per cent Preference stock was at 5 per cent premium and the 4 per cent Debentures stood at 26 per cent premium. From these figures it seems to this Chamber that the Company is now—if it was not before—well able to face a temporary loss by reducing its charges between India and Europe, and vice versa.

With regard to the guarantee against loss that was sought by the Eastern Company, the Chamber would have been glad if the Government of India had been able to give it, as it is firmly convinced of the ultimate financial success of a substantial reduction of the charges. The effect of such a reduction is seen in the case of the reduction made in the charges between England and Australia in 1891 for the development of traffic that followed was so large and so rapid as to compensate for the estimated loss of revenue in four years. The substantial reduction in charges to South Africa had a similar result. Both cases would thus seem to justify the Government of India in guaranteeing the Indo-European and Eastern Companies against any loss that might at first result from a reduction.

The following figures show that while the number of Indian messages has remained practically stationary since 1891-92 the Trans-Indian messages have increased upwards of 57 per cent, while as regards the total net value, the former show an increase of only £18,000, whereas the latter show an increase of no less than £227,590—

Year.	Indian Messages.				Trans-Indian Messages.				Totals.			
	Number	of Words.	Total net value.	d. s. d.	Number	of Words.	Total net value.	d. s. d.	Number	of Words.	Total net value.	d. s. d.
1891-92	2,347,250	360,097	360,097	15 5	2,240,228	284,427	284,427	7 3	4,587,478	644,525	644,525	2 8
1892-93	2,319,743	359,591	359,591	14 8	2,329,715	292,907	292,907	7 3	4,649,458	652,499	652,499	1 11
1893-94	2,384,673	375,091	375,091	17 6	2,587,508	329,947	329,947	19 3	4,972,182	705,039	705,039	16 8
1894-95	2,209,446	348,071	348,071	19 9	2,900,784	368,236	368,236	9 6	5,110,230	716,308	716,308	9 3
1895-96	2,348,504	368,116	368,116	11 6	3,606,220	471,640	471,640	19 2	5,954,751	839,757	839,757	10 8
1896-97	2,237,249	344,353	344,353	7 6	3,219,958	515,434	515,434	19 3	6,157,208	859,788	859,788	6 9
1897-98	2,540,809	378,218	378,218	11 10	3,928,361	512,017	512,017	19 0	6,469,171	890,236	890,236	10 10

The Chamber would also draw prominent attention to the anomaly of charging the sum of 4s. per word from England to India, and only 4s. 9d. from England to South Australia, or 9d. for the great distance between Madras and the Australian Continent. If the Companies concerned can between them afford to carry a message all the way to Australia for 4s. 9d., the Chamber submits that the Eastern Telegraph Company and the Indo-European Company could very well afford to carry a message between England and India for 2s. per word.

The effect of the present very high rates has been to compel the Mercantile Community to make use of Codes for the condensation of messages. These Codes have probably attained the highest degree of perfection that can be expected; hence no great expansion of traffic under present circumstances is likely to ensue, irrespective, that is, of any expansion of trade. But with a reduction of the charges between

India and Europe, or even between India and England, and vice versa, by one-half, the Chamber believes that the use of Codes would not be so universally and solely resorted to as at present—for that use is attended with several disadvantages, such as the time occupied in codifying and translating telegrams and the inflexibility of the Codes—and that the general public would also resort much more largely to the cables than they now can afford to do. In these days it may well be said that business transactions between distant portions of the Empire are carried on solely by means of the telegraph, and consequently, anything that can be done to cheapen that method of communication and so lessen that tax on the foreign trade of the country, is the Chamber considers, a matter to which the Government of India may fairly be asked to again accord its powerful support.

If the Telegraph Companies remain obdurate, and decline to make substantial reductions, the Chamber would not be indisposed to advocate the laying of another independent cable between India and England, and to ask the Government of India to guarantee the payment of interest on the capital outlay until such time as the Company that constructed it was able to show a surplus of revenue over expenditure exceeding the guarantee. But for the present, the Chamber will do no more than request the Government to give some guarantee against loss, as was done by the Australian and South African Governments with such marked success.

In submitting this request, the Chamber does not feel that it can be charged with making an undue demand upon the resources of this country. The Government of India in the case of the recent introduction of Imperial penny postage has admitted the justice of extending State aid to postal communication, and what holds good in that case, holds good with equal force, the Chamber submits, in the equally, if not more, important case of telegraphic communication.

The feeling of the Mercantile Community in respect of the injustice of the present exorbitant rates for telegraphing between India and Europe is very strong and wide spread, but the monopoly enjoyed by the present Companies has been proof against attack in the past. Consequently, any action that the Government of India may again take to effect a substantial reduction of these charges—and the Chamber earnestly hope that such action will be taken at an early date—will be widely and warmly appreciated.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

S. R. TURNBULL,
Chairman.

The Secretary, Government of India, (P. W. D. Telegraphs), Calcutta.

SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the annual general meeting of the above held on the 27th April Mr. W. D. Little, who presided, said—Gentlemen, before asking you to adopt the report of your Committee for the past year, I will, with your permission, make a few remarks on some of the work and events of that period. First we will take the River Approaches to Shanghai and River Conservancy. This important matter has had the earnest attention of your Committee and the revised scheme for the constitution of a Conservancy Board has recently been completed and forwarded to the Senior Consul. With regard to the Extension of the Settlement, as remarked by your Chairman last year, this question is not in our hands, but in the words of the report I may say the question has by no means been lost sight of. Last June we held a general meeting of the Chamber open to the public, calling the urgent attention of the community to the necessity of supporting the Municipality by public action and expression of opinion. I observe in the British Blue Book on "Affairs in China, No. 1, 1899" just to hand, that a full report therein of your meeting is recorded. We hope soon to hear that the efforts of the authorities concerned have been successful and that the looked-for extension may shortly become an accomplished fact. That meeting

was called for the special purpose of supporting the Municipal Council by an expression of public opinion. We are glad to hear that the efforts of the authorities concerned have been successful, and we look forward to the extension as practically an established fact. I would like to call your attention to the mail services. The attempt to effect some change in the present day of departure of the mail steamers has, so far, had no result. I understand, however, that the North German Lloyd intend in October next to inaugurate a fortnightly service from Shanghai, their steamers leaving every alternate Saturday. With regard to the subject of the British postal rates we addressed a letter, as you will observe in the appendix, to the Postmaster-General in Hongkong, on the 7th of Feb. last, asking for information, but so far have received no reply. The report refers to the resignation of Mr. Alford, who for three years so worthily filled the post of Chairman. Mr. Dudgeon assumed office for a short period, when he also resigned on the eve of his departure for home. The Chamber has been unfortunate in losing almost simultaneously the services of two such able and hard working members of your Committee. I need not detain you further the report deals fully with our work during the past year, and with the correspondence attached will, I trust, be found interesting.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the general managers for the year ending the 31st December, 1898, for presentation to the shareholders at the fourteenth annual ordinary general meeting of the Company, since its registration, to be held at the Hongkong Dispensary, on Monday, 8th May, at noon:—

Gentlemen,—We now beg to lay before you a statement of the Company's business, with a balance sheet for the year ending the 31st December 1898.

The net profits of the Company for the twelve months under review, after paying all charges, including general management, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and with the addition of \$9,239.01 brought forward from last year, amount to \$106,693.24

From this there has been written off for depreciation of furniture, fittings, utensils of trade, machinery, and buildings..... 11,375.89

Leaving an available balance of... \$95,317.35

We paid an Interim Dividend of 5 per cent. in Nov. last, absorbing \$30,000.00 And we now propose to pay a further dividend of 6 per cent. (making 11 per cent. for the year) which will absorb..... 36,000.00 To place to the credit of Permanent Reserve Fund a sum of..... 25,000.00 To carry forward to 1899 Account..... 4,317.35

Permanent Reserve Fund, with the addition of \$25,000 as above, will stand at \$125,000. Reserve Fund to meet contingencies or for the equalization of Dividends remains at \$25,000 as heretofore.

The Company's accounts in London, have been audited by Messrs. Hopps, Banhart and Warmington, Chartered Accountants, and those at the Head Office by Mr. Francis Maitland.

The business of the Company continues to be of a progressive and satisfactory character.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 27th April, 1899.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital account.....	600,000.00		
Local and general liabilities in the			
Bank.....	\$38,768.54		
Local and general liabilities in			
London.....	\$4,841.85		
Mortgage on inland lot No. 16 and the build- ings thereon.....	73,810.19		
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank loan account.....	84,800.00		
Bills payable, Hongkong, Manila, and London.....	75,900.00		
	33,200.00		

Permanent reserve fund.....	\$100,000.00
Reserve fund to meet contingencies, or for the equalization of dividends.....	25,000.00
Unclaimed dividends.....	125,000.00
Security deposits from staff.....	4,406.80
Profit and loss, forward from 1897.....	\$ 9,239.01
Profit and loss, remaining balance 1898 after writing off \$11,375.89 for depreciation as per profit and loss account.....	86,078.84
Less interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in November, 1898 \$30,000.00	
Less amount unclaimed at 31st Dec., 1898.....	4,409.50
	25,590.50
	69,726.85
	\$1,133,294.54

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Total stocks in trade.....	654,813.07		
Good debts due from customers.....	143,812.50		
Good debts due from sundry debtors in London and Hongkong.....	10,985.57		
Cash in hand.....	\$10,452.60		
Cash at bankers.....	40,618.33		
Fire insurance premia unexpired.....	51,070.98		
Shipments of goods afloat.....	3,715.03		
Investments in public companies—			
North China Insurance Co., Limited.....			
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Limited.....			
La Constancia Cigar Factory, Manila.....		4,243.56	
Section A of inland lot No. 17 and the buildings thereon.....	\$62,000.00		
Kowloon inland lots Nos. 540, 550 and 551.....	23,000.00		
Inland lot No. 16 and the buildings thereon.....	149,000.00		
	234,000.000		
	\$1,133,294.54		

Dr.		\$	c.
PROFIT AND LOSS.			
To depreciation account.....	11,375.89		
To balance.....	95,317.35		
	\$106,693.24		
Cr.		\$	c.
CONTRA.			
By balance forward from 1897.....	9,239.01		
By net profits in Hongkong, China, Manila, and London for 1898.....	97,454.23		
	\$106,693.24		

THE YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the above Company was held at the head office, Shanghai on the 25th April, Mr. J. M. Young presiding. There were also present Messrs. H. J. Such, E. B. Skottowe, Brodie Clarke, and J. S. Fearon (Directors), C. W. Hay, J. Henningsen, R. Inglis, M. Wolff, J. P. Roberts, W. Lunt, R. W. Mustard, Paul Brunat, F. Gove, C. W. Wrightson, A. Riva, C. Wilok, G. A. Matthews, J. Liddell, E. P. Wickham, L. Vander Stegen, and W. S. Jackson (Secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the minutes of the last ordinary general meeting held on the 22nd of April last year having been printed and circulated in the usual way may, I presume, be taken as read, and with your permission the report and accounts to the 31st December, 1898, that have been in your hands for some time, will also be taken as read, but before proposing the adoption and passing of the report and accounts I should like to make a few remarks with reference to the same. The year 1897, I am sorry to say, has left us no profit, the running off of the risks still open at the date of the last annual meeting continuing as unfortunate as I then explained our previous experience of that year had been. Fortunately a substantial balance had been carried forward from former years amounting on 31st December, 1898, to \$122,600.86 out of which the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. on the paid up capital or \$6 per share, is recom-

mended, leaving \$74,600.86 to go forward, which is deemed ample to meet all claims appertaining to those years. The working account 1898 is much more satisfactory, for not only do the net premia show an increase of \$30,788.16, but the balance at credit is \$275,918.95 as against \$226,512.92, and the estimated claims on known losses and casualties are about \$117,000 against about \$163,000 the previous year. The claims already paid on this account amount to \$281,459.90 or 47.23 per cent. of the net premia earned against \$280,154.62 or 54.38 per cent. Your directors recommend carrying forward the whole of the \$275,918.95 at the credit of this account, as it would be unadvisable policy otherwise to deal with any portion of it at present in view of our outstanding risks, which, however, are less than they were this time last year, notwithstanding the steady increase in the premia income. The percentage of expenses to net premia is 17.18 per cent. against 17.83 per cent. last year. A considerable reduction has taken place in the balance at credit of exchange and investment fluctuation account, amounting to \$261,234.46 which as the report states is owing to the depression at the end of last year of some of the Association's investments principally in the sterling investments. But that it was temporary only is indicated by the revaluation we have recently made of those investments, and which according to the latest available quotations have recovered to the extent of \$13,000—or 50 per cent. of the sum written off on the 31st December last. Your directors are satisfied that upon that date all the assets of the association were fully worth what they stand at in the balance sheet. Of the \$188,711.48 due by agencies, premia in course of collection, and sundry outstandings, about \$150,000 have since been received. It is of course too early in the year to say anything about our prospects for 1899, but so far as we have gone we have reason to be satisfied. Rates of premia show some signs of improvement and tariffs have been arranged for certain classes of business and it is to be hoped that the recent gales in the Atlantic and elsewhere, resulting as they have done in the loss of so many fine steamers and sailing vessels, will have the effect of improving rates and putting a stop to the "rate cutting" which has been carried on by underwriters for some years past. I don't know that I have anything more to say but if any shareholder desires to put any questions I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ability.

Mr. Wilok—Have there been any steps taken to improve the rates?

The Chairman—There are some indications of rates improving. I can hardly say they have improved yet, but we see indications that attempts are being made by the powerful companies at home, who seem to be getting tired of cutting rates down very low and we hope they will succeed in securing better rates.

No more questions being asked.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts as presented by the directors for the 12 months ending December 31st, 1898.

Mr. H. J. Such seconded and the resolution was agreed to.

The Chairman next proposed that a dividend of ten per cent. viz. \$6 per share, on the paid up capital be declared, payable at either the Charter Bank of Australia, India, and China or the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to shareholders registered on the 15th of April 1899.

Mr. Brodie Clarke seconded and the resolution was adopted.

Mr. C. W. Hay moved and Mr. J. Henningsen seconded the re-election of the Board until the next ordinary meeting of shareholders.

Carried.

It was proposed by Mr. Wolff and seconded by Mr. P. Brunat that Mr. Augustus White be re-elected auditor for the ensuing year. This having been carried, the meeting terminated.

Twenty-four Filipinos who were sent as prisoners to Spain nineteen months ago, and were on their way back to Manila by the Spanish steamer *Leo XIII.* elected to remain at Singapore for the present, being afraid, the *Free Press* says, lest they should be made prisoners by the Americans if they went on to Manila.

THE STRAITS INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The following is the fifteenth annual report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-second ordinary general meeting, to be held in the Company's Offices, Singapore, on the 3rd day of May:—

To the shareholders of the Straits Insurance Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Your Directors beg to submit the annexed balance-sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1898.

The Accounts have been adjusted at the exchange of 2/- per dollar.

1898.—The Net Premiums for the year amount to 632,786.60 (£63,278-13-2) on which claims have been settled up to 31st December last, amounting to \$257,097.42 (£25,709-14-10). Commissions and expenses amount to \$208,866.89 (£20,886-13-9). The Balance \$166,822.29 (£16,682-4-7) is carried forward.

1897.—The settlements on account of 1897, and previous years amount to \$516,153 (£51,615-7-1). It is estimated that a further sum of £7,000, will be required to fully liquidate these old accounts, involving the loss of about half the paid up capital of the Company. To replace this it was resolved at an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders held on 15th March, and confirmed at a similar meeting on 29th March, to increase the capital of the Company by 30,000 sterling value shares, fully paid, of \$10 each (equivalent of £1 sterling). An alternative scheme has since been placed before shareholders, and generally approved, for the reconstruction of the Company in London under conditions which have been fully explained to you by circular, dated 20th March last. Negotiations in regard to this scheme are proceeding.

Interest on Investments amounts to \$27,531.26 (£2,753-2-6).

The values of Company's Properties in London and Singapore have been certified by expert valuers, and all known bad debts have been written off.

DIRECTORS.

On his return to the Colony, Mr. D. W. Lovell was re-appointed to the Board.

In accordance with the provisions of Clause No. 105 of the Company's Articles of Association, the Hon'ble T. C. Bogaardt and the Hon'ble G. S. Murray retire from the Board, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

In accordance with Clause No. 146 of the Company's Articles of Association, Mr. J. Lyall and Mr. R. Dunman retire, and the firm of Messrs. Lyall & Eratt, and Mr. W. Dunman, acting for Mr. Robert Dunman, offer themselves for election as Company's Auditors.

T. C. BOGAARDT, } Directors.
D. W. LOVELL, }

Singapore, 19th April, 1899.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

Dr.		\$	c.
To capital fully subscribed, 30,000 shares at \$100		3,000,000.00	
To capital paid up		600,000.00	
To unclaimed dividends		940.00	
To sundry creditors		19,890.03	
To mortgage of London premises		150,000.00	
		\$770,830.30	
Cr.		\$	c.
By cash on current account with Banks, Singapore, China, &c.		27,507.99	
By fixed deposits with Banks, Singapore		30,000.00	
By real estate owned by the Company, Singapore		70,000.00	
By Chinese Imperial Government loan E.		12,693.97	
By agency balances and sundry debtors for premiums, &c.		15,384.59	
By branch balances, London, &c.		108,862.96	
By cash on current account with Banks, London, &c.		54,942.51	
By fixed deposits with Banks, Australia, &c.		32,634.58	
By metropolitan fire brigade debentures		15,400.00	
By freehold office premises, London		300,000.00	
By remittances in transitu		11,487.20	
By furniture and stock at head office and branches		9,741.56	
By cash in hands of cashier		20.88	
By balance of profit and loss account		\$248,976.08	
By less balance of working account		166,822.29	
		82,153.79	
		\$770,830.03	

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1898.

Dr.		\$	c.
To net premiums from 1st January to 31st December, 1898, after deducting re-insurances and return premiums		632,786.60	
		\$632,786.60	
Cr.		\$	c.
By head office charges		47,062.74	
By branch and agency charges		126,816.90	
By commissions		19,568.27	
By directors, committees and auditors' fees		15,418.98	
By losses and claims paid		257,097.42	
By balance		166,822.29	
		\$632,786.60	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		\$	c.
To balance of profit and loss at 31st December, 1897		347.66	
To balance of working account at 31st December, 1897		219,173.45	
To interest on investments		27,531.26	
To transfer fees		88.00	
To from reserve for renewal of buildings		3,220.00	
To increased value of investments		23,056.04	
To unclaimed dividends written off		195.00	
To balance		248,976.08	
		\$522,586.49	
Cr.		\$	c.
By claims paid on account 1896 and previous years		\$123,385.44	
By claims, re-insurances and return premiums paid on account 1897		392,768.09	
By property charges		2,004.99	
By bad debts written off as irrecoverable		997.97	
By taxes on profit account 1894		3,430.00	
		\$522,586.49	

BANK OF CHINA AND JAPAN, LIMITED.

The fourth annual ordinary general meeting of the Bank of China and Japan, Limited, was held, on 27th March, at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., Mr. W. Keswick, M.P., presiding. The General Manager (Mr. F. C. Bishop) having read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said—In September last you were advised by circular that a final payment had been made on May 14th to depositors in the old bank. The liabilities of that bank having thus been all discharged, only one general balance-sheet to Dec. 31st last falls to be submitted to you. To turn to the balance-sheet, the capital account shows that only sixty shares have been allotted during the year 1893 to old shareholders; but since then a further fifteen have been issued. This is due to the Board having adhered to their policy of allotting shares only after the call of £3 15s. had been paid in full. There are three shareholders holding 645 shares who are paying up the above call with the objects of coming into the new bank. You will notice a sum of £654 15s. 3d. has been already received from them, and the balance we expect to be paid during 1899. Overdue calls amounted on December 31st to £14,786 7s. 11d., but have since been reduced to £14,050 18s. 2d., of which certainly £2,000 is quite good and will shortly come in. The balance of about £12,000 may be divided into two classes, one consisting of shareholders who have not paid the first, second, and third instalments of call and the other of those who have paid. From the first class £1,299 5s. is due on the three instalments, and every effort is being made to recover this sum, as also a sum of £3,728 further due by the same shareholders for subsequent instalments. From the other class the remainder of the outstandings, amounting to £7,023 13s. 2d., is due, being payable in respect of the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh instalments. The shareholders by whom these outstandings are due should recognise that it is decidedly to their advantage to pay up the balance, as they have already paid at last £2 per share, and in many cases more. Should they fail to pay up, the Board have power to forfeit their shares after giving due notice; and, were their shares forfeited, and the sums already paid on them transferred to credit of deficiency account, such transfer would result in a clear gain to the bank. The only other item calling for remark as regards the accounts on the liability side of the balance-sheet is the

increase of about £20,000 in fixed deposits and current accounts. This indicates that the bank has gained in the confidence of the public, and I am glad to say the amount has still further increased since Jan. 1st, not only at head office, but also at branches where silver deposits will greatly assist the business of the bank. To turn to the other side of the balance-sheet, I will direct your attention first to "unrealised assets of old bank," £76,178 2s. 10d. This has been reduced by about one-third—£25,500—since Dec. 31st, 1898, by realisations, and the Board intend during the year to continue realising these assets as favourable opportunity offers. As to the deficiency account, this, of course, applies to the old bank and appears this year as £209,946 19s. 8d., having been reduced by calls recovered during the year to the extent of £3,494 13s. 10d. As mentioned at last meeting, the only large items which can greatly reduce this account are the sums to be recovered from the Chinese and American shareholders. The decision of the Taotai of Shanghai in the Chinese suit, which was unfavourable to the bank, has not yet been reheard on appeal before the Viceroy of Nan-king, to whom it was referred. The case is in the hands of our legal advisers at Shanghai, who are giving it every attention. The decision of the New York Court was entirely in the bank's favour, but the defendant has appealed against it to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, and I am glad to tell you that our New York solicitors appear confident that we shall succeed in that Appellate Court also. I need scarcely add that we shall prosecute the appeal with vigour, and allow no delay to arise in bringing it on for hearing.

When we turn to the profit and loss account, it is disappointing that the amount at credit is only £2,325 13s. 2d., and that it shows a reduction on the earnings of the preceding year. Many circumstances have conducted to this result, but chiefly the conditions of exchange, with the bank's still limited capacity in 1898, account for it. Extreme caution had to be observed, and transactions restricted to a small margin for profit as turns over in exchange. With considerable silver assets of the old bank still to realise, the management hesitated to place much of the new bank's gold funds also in the East, and the chance of earning good profits for the new bank was thus lost through what may be considered over-caution and attention to the interests of the old bank. The working of the two banks was thus so intimate that it was not possible to separate the actual profits, and hence they appear as they do in profit and loss account. No losses were made by the bank during the year, but charges account was burdened somewhat by sickness and by furlough expenses. The amount, £11,260 16s. 8d., includes also the fees paid to the committee representing the depositors in the old bank, but which is now at an end. With a view to helping exchange business, by being connected with so important a market as Singapore, we opened an agency there early in January last, and so far it gives promise of being a right step. Fortunately it does not involve any considerable expense, and I may say all our arrangements are made to obtain efficiency wherever business is carried on, and with a due regard to economy. The Board are of opinion there is a reasonable prospect of success in the future; that where established there are promising fields for profitable operations, and that there is every likelihood with the capital the bank possesses and the improved credit and confidence it enjoys, it will secure a good business and earn fair dividends. You are aware that there is still the liquidation of the old bank to complete, and recalcitrant shareholders in it to deal with, and more especially those of them who are Chinese subjects. Such matters require considerable handling, and so do also the realisation of the assets, and these subjects will necessarily demand the care and attention of the Board. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts.

Mr. David McLean seconded the motion.

In answer to a question put by Mr. Fleming, the Chairman said the reason the expenses this year were so much higher than last was owing in a great measure to sickness of their staff. Their Hongkong manager was home on fur-

longh, and was receiving a certain remuneration. These and similar causes were mainly responsible for the increases in the bank's expenses.

Mr. Thomas asked whether the Board had fully considered whether it was worth while continuing business. Year after year they had been faced by most miserable results, in spite of having on the Board gentlemen who occupied very high positions in connection with the East.

Mr. A. J. Hicks was of the same opinion as that expressed by the last speaker. They were making no progress, and he considered it was, quite time they considered this matter most seriously.

Mr. Fleming also strongly advised the winding-up of the bank.

Mr. Holland, as an old shareholder owning 2,000 shares, asked his fellow-shareholders to give the directors a little more chance. It was comparatively only a few months ago that the present bank was allowed to run alone; he knew the results were very disappointing, but he for one, if the directors considered there was a good chance in the future, would strongly advise them to give the director's recommendation earnest consideration. There were shareholders last year who strongly urged the directors to wind up the bank, but their loss would have been very much greater had their advice been carried into effect. They were not yet altogether out of the wood; they had important actions pending both in the States and China, and there appeared to be a fair chance of the directors succeeding. He was in favour of giving the directors certainly another twelve months' chance.

The Chairman said the remarks of the last speaker answered in a great measure those previously made. It was only about the middle of the past year when they were free of the committee, whose influence the Board had to respect. The feeling of the Board was that if they did not succeed this year, it would be a matter for serious consideration at the end of it what they would then do. He regarded the present year as a test, they could not expect great things, but they hoped to obtain satisfactory results. If they did not he was sure the Board, who were very much interested as shareholders, would not for a moment desire to influence the decision of the shareholders in any other way than in the one which would appear best for their interests. They believed, however, that there was a field for the bank. Business had extended, China was opening up in a considerable manner, and he had himself every expectation that, although they could not expect to do anything brilliant, still they would be able to do enough to justify their existence—and their continued existence—and justify, also, the confidence he hoped the shareholders would place in the Board by allowing them that further period of time. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was carried unanimously.

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Acting Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following telegram from the mines giving the result of the April clean up:—"The mill ran 24 days, crushing 2,200 tons, yielding 146 ounces of smelted gold. Prospects are encouraging."

JELEBU.

The following is the report issued to the shareholders of the Jelebu Mining and Trading Company (Limited), under date of Singapore, 21st April, 1898:—

Your directors beg to submit a statement of the Company's accounts for the period from 17th August, 1898, to 9th February, 1899, being the second half-year of the tenth year of the company's existence by the Chinese Calendar.

Jelebu Alluvial.—As will be seen from the working accounts, a profit of \$17,827 has been made during the half-year. That result is especially satisfactory as the capital employed in this branch of the business has only been small. The general manager reports the advances to be safe.

Jelebu Rin Lode.—The outlay for the half-year amounted to \$13,359, which, together with \$15,363 spent to account of lode-machinery, and together with the previous expenditure bring the account to \$62,009. Though about \$80,000 have been spent on the lode, it is valued at only \$62,009 in the Company's books. That amount is considered a good asset. During the period under review, the prospects of the lode have further improved. The main shaft has been driven to a depth of 160 feet as recommended by Mr. W. Bibby. A crosscut from that point intersected the lode at 14 feet and 40 feet from the shaft, and the lode was found to be 1 foot 6 inches and 3 feet thick. The mining manager considers the prospects excellent. The machinery ordered for working the lode, referred to in last report, has arrived and is now on the way to Jelebu, where all preliminary work for the erection of the machinery is nearly completed. It is expected that, unless unforeseen circumstances interfere, everything should be in working order by September of this year.

Maliwun.—As will be seen from the accounts, the remaining assets have been finally disposed of. The Company has no further interest in this concession, which has been surrendered to the Government.

Accounts.—After writing off the usual depreciation, there remains at the debit of profit and loss account the sum of \$69,793, as against \$86,773, at the end of the previous half-year. That debit balance your directors propose to carry forward. It should be pointed out that the decrease in the amount of the half year (\$11,244 as compared with the balance of the previous half year, \$52,428) is accounted for by the fact that the value of the ore in stock on the 9th February was \$57,152 (since realised) against only \$25,894 in the previous accounts, and further that the sum of \$15,264 had been spent on machinery.

General.—The profit in the half year under review is at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum on the Company's capital, which would, in normal circumstances, justify the paying of a fairly good dividend.

The directors cannot, however, recommend such a course while there is a debit balance due to former operations; further, having regard to the funds available, the profits made on alluvial must be used to meet the preliminary expenditure on the Rin Lode. The Rin Lode may now be considered a prospectively valuable property, on the possession of which the shareholders are to be congratulated. The Lode has been proved in quantity and quality of the ore sufficiently to make it almost a certainty that there will be enough paying quartz to last, even if it be worked on a large scale, for a number of years. Subject to the final test of actual working in bulk, the success of the lode mining is practically now asured. The director to retire by rotation is Dr. Lim Boon Keng, who offers himself for re-election.

The auditor, Mr. A. J. Gunn, retires from office but offers himself for re-election.

J. P. JOAQUIM AND JACKSON MILLAR,
Directors.
HUTTENBACH BROTHERS & Co.,
General Agents.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE HALF-YEAR.

To capital	\$225,000
To dividends unpaid	718
To unpaid charges and sundry creditors	14,232
	<u>\$239,951</u>

By cost of houses, coolies' quarters and godowns, balance from last account	\$4,191
Additions to property	1,117
	<u>\$5,309</u>
Less 25 per cent. written off	1,327
	<u>\$3,981</u>
By cost of houses and godown furniture, plant, waterways, and roads, balance of account	\$3,038
Additions	403
	<u>\$2,441</u>
Less 15 per cent. written off	366
	<u>2,075</u>
By cost of 18 bullocks and 8 carts	\$450
By addition	50
	<u>\$500</u>
By depreciation written off	50

By cost of ore-bags, balance from last account	\$400
Additions to stock	375
	<u>\$775</u>
Depreciation written off	275
	<u>500</u>
By cost of stores in stock for sale to miners	813
By advances	20,734
By value of ore in stock on 9th Feb., 1899	57,152
By cash in manager's hands at Jelebu	8,840
By sundry debtors	264
	<u>RIN LODS JELEBU.</u>
By previous expenditure	\$33,286
By expenditure during the half-year	13,359
By machinery, &c.	15,363
	<u>62,009</u>
	<u>GENERAL.</u>
By cash in hands of General Agents	159
By amounts on fixed deposit with Co.'s bankers	\$31,156
Less current account	19,911
	<u>11,244</u>
By sundry debtors	1,931
By balance of profit and loss	69,793
	<u>\$239,951</u>

WORKING ACCOUNT OF JELEBU FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDING 9TH FEBRUARY, 1899.

To 25 per cent. written off from buildings and plant at Jelebu	81,327
To 15 per cent. written off from furniture and trade-utensils	366
To depreciation written off from ore-bags	275
To depreciation written off from carts	50
To general charges at Jelebu	5,239
To balance	17,827
	<u>\$25,085</u>

By royalty and profit on ore	\$24,459
By profit on stores and general business	626
	<u>\$25,085</u>

By net profit of Jelebu for the half-year

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To balance	\$86,773
Charges at Singapore	3,767
	<u>\$90,540</u>

By net profit of Jelebu for the half-year	17,827
By bank interest	742
	<u>MALIWUN ACCOUNT.</u>

By sundry receipts	\$926
By proceeds of sale of Maliwun property	1,250
	<u>2,176</u>

By balance of loss from last account	\$86,773
By less profit for half-year	16,979
	<u>69,793</u>

\$90,540

HALL & HOLTZ, LIMITED.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of the above Company was held at Shanghai on the 29th April. There were present Messrs. J. D. Clark (Chairman), H. J. Such, W. Hayward (Directors), E. Nelson, (legal adviser), E. W. Tisdall, S. B. Remedios, Moffat, Geo. Osborne, E. Palmer, J. Quick, J. M. Guedes, and E. J. S. Colgan (Secretary), representing 1,732 shares.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been in your possession for some time, therefore, with your permission, we will take them as read, but before asking you to pass them I should like to make a few remarks. I feel certain that you will, with your directors, feel pleased with the accounts as printed. We have had this misfortune, since we last met, as you are all aware, of having our premises and stock totally destroyed by fire. When I say totally, I mean all our stock stored in the Nanking Road premises at the time of the fire, but we were fortunate enough to have some stock in the Soochow Road godowns besides some of our furnishing goods, as well as the bakery, which considerably helped us to resume business almost immediately after the disaster. I may mention that the fire occurred on Saturday night and on the following Monday we were doing business in our own premises here. Nevertheless it was an anxious time, for we had to set to work and find new premises suitable to carry on our business in a central position, and I think you will agree with us when we say we have been most fortunate in securing a place in the Nanking Road, next door to the old premises. Although we were fully insured, we have somewhat suffered in having to purchase locally to

supply our customers; but, I think, considering the misfortune that befell us, we have come out of it fairly well, and it is extremely gratifying to your directors to be able to state that since our stocks have arrived we have been doing an excellent business, and, although we have been deprived of our old premises, we see no reason why we should not do a larger amount of business than we did in the old premises. We have been promised that a new and modern store shall be finished on the site of the old one in less than two years, and we hope shortly to be able to come to terms with our old landlords for a long lease of them, but if we cannot obtain the old site on terms that we can afford to pay we must, of course, endeavour to obtain premises elsewhere. I am sure you will, with us, regret the death of our old friend Mr. Geo. Corner, who has been the auditor of the Company for many years. The vacancy caused by his death has been filled by Mr. Geo. D. Scott. I will now briefly refer to the accounts. You will notice there is a falling off of \$18,000 in the gross profits, but the obvious reason of this is on account of our stock being destroyed, therefore we had to purchase, as I said before, locally to fill the orders that came in from our usual customers but I am glad to be able to state that our Company is now in a position to supply all goods from our own stocks. Of course the net profits show a corresponding falling off. The salaries, as you will observe, show an increase of about \$4,800 this is owing to a slight increase in our staff, and sundry advances which had to be made in salaries of some of our older employees. You will also observe that there is a large decrease in our rent account. The reason for this, is that the bakeries have been transferred to the Company's own premises here. There is likewise an increase under the heading of "Travelers, Tientsin Office, Passages, etc." of \$3,500, which is mostly owing to extra passages for our assistants. The Tientsin branch, I am glad to inform you, under the able management of Mr. Jacques, has done an excellent business, and as that place is rapidly growing we expect to see a still further improvement there. But the total increase of the three items, "Travelers, etc.," "Printing, etc.," and "Trade Expenses" for the year, has only been increased by about \$4,000, and had it not been for the fire, the increased sales would have amply justified this extra expenditure. I will now refer to the balance sheet, although there is little need for any comment. The sundry debtors amount to somewhat more than last year, but I can assure you that these are considerably larger than we should like, and that this item is having the special attention of your directors, and we hope, with our increased staff, to have these figures materially reduced very shortly. There is, as you have no doubt noticed, an item "Reserved for fixtures, \$10,635." This I may mention is the balance in hand at credit of fixture account, which will be gradually absorbed as the new fixtures are supplied. The reserve fund now stands at \$152,500, which is considerably more than the paid-up capital of the Company, and in recommending a dividend of \$2 per share, your directors have not thought it necessary to use any of last year's profits in increasing this item. Our stock being all newly imported, and as the property account is considerably within the value shown in the accounts, these items require no depreciation whatever. I may also add, gentlemen, that the prosperity of the Company is largely due to the energy of our employees. These, gentlemen, are all the comments I have to make, but should any shareholder present require any further explanation I will endeavour to give it.

There were no questions.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Such and carried. That the report and accounts as printed and circulated be passed.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Hayward, and carried. That the recommendation of the directors as to the disposal of the profits be adopted.

Proposed by Mr. Geo. Osborne, seconded by Mr. Palmer, and carried. That Mr. W. Hayward be re-elected a director.

Proposed by Capt. Tisdall, seconded by Mr. Quick, and carried. That Mr. G. D. Scott be appointed auditor for the ensuing year.

Mr. Gude—On behalf of the shareholders I beg to return our sincere thanks to the Chairman, Directors and staff for the good services rendered in our interests.

Capt. Tisdall seconded and the vote was carried with acclamation.—*Mercury*.

ANGLO-FRENCH QUICKSILVER AND MINING CONCESSION, LIMITED.

Such is the abbreviated title of a Company which has been registered in London, the full title being "Anglo-French Quicksilver and Mining Concession (Kweichau Province) of China, Limited." The capital is £310,000, divided into 130,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each; 130,000 ordinary shares of £1 each; and 50,000 founders' shares of £1 each. All the ordinary and founders' shares are to be issued to the vendor as fully paid in part payment of the purchase money, the balance of £32,000 being paid in cash, leaving £98,000 as working capital. The vendor is M. Julien Halphen.

In connection with this company some points of interest arise apart from the question of its commercial value. The concession is a French concession, the validity of which is certified by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the concession is said to give the right to work not only the mines particularly specified but also the right to the absolute control and working of all quicksilver, coal, and iron mines in Kweichau. This French concession, of such far-reaching extent, is to be sold to a Company registered in Great Britain, the chairman of which is Mr. Jacob Arnhold, of the German firm of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. Under the jurisdiction and protection of what nation will the Company come in China? The concession being French, France may claim that it belongs to her sphere. The Company being English, Great Britain may claim that it is her affair. If the staff should be German, as is not unlikely to be the case, and should get knocked on the head by the Chinese populace, Germany may also put in an appearance. Another consideration that suggests itself is that if French mining concessions are to be acquired on such easy terms, perhaps French railway concessions might also be obtainable at a price, say the line from Pakhoi to Nanning and the line from Nanning to Lungchow.

The prospectus states that the Company "has been formed to work the quicksilver mines situate at Ouen-Shan-Tohiang—(we follow the spelling of the original)—in the Kwei-Chau province of China. These mines are of large extent, and of unusual richness, and well deserve the great reputation they have had for years past. The concession to work these mines also gives the right to the absolute control and working of all quicksilver, coal, and iron mines in the said province of Kwei-Chau, and of the existing smelting works at Tsing-Ki. The concession was granted to His Excellency Toheng Ming Yuen and his partners by Imperial edict, dated the 8th February, 1898, and by two contracts dated the 17th of March and the 26th of June, 1898, and made between the said concessionaires and the Société Française d'Explorations Minières, the Société Française obtained the right to work all the mines comprised in the said concession upon the terms set forth below, and this Company has been formed to acquire the rights of the said Société Française. The concession bears the signatures of His Excellency Toheng Ming Yuen, Assistant Taotai at Kouang-Tong, Director of the Kwei-Chau mines, and Mons. De Marteau, representative in China of the Société Française, and certified in the presence of Mons. E. Dubail, Minister of France at Peking, dated 17th March, 1898." A contract has been made, dated 9th September, 1898, between the Société Française d'Explorations Minières of the one part and Julien Halphen of the other part, and another, dated 10th March, 1899, between Julien Halphen of the one part and Robert Maxwell as trustee for the Company of the other part.

The Board of Directors is constituted as follows:—Jacob Arnhold, of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co., Merchants, 5 East India Avenue, London, E.C., and of Hongkong, Shanghai, Canton, Hankow, Tientsin (Chairman); Her-

bert Ingram, Director of the *Illustrated London News and Sketch*, Ltd.; Lieut. Colonel W. T. Ellis, Director of the Walsbach Incandescent Gas Light Co., Ltd., Rydes Hill House, Guildford; A. Rickmers, of Messrs. Rickmers, Rice Mills, Ship Building and Equipment Co., Ltd., Bremen; C. J. Buckland, F.G.S., Director of Victory (Charters Towers) Gold Mining Co., Ltd., Suffolk House, E.C.; and in France, Leon Orosdi, Director of Etablissements Orosdi-Bach & Co., Paris; George De Klappa, Secretary of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Paris; and Paul Dubois, Engineer-in-Chief of the Department of Bridges and Roads in France. The two last named are Directors of the Société Française d'Explorations Minières.

The following opinion of Herr G. Schnabel, Professor of Metallurgy and Technological Chemistry, at the Academy of Mines, Clausthal (Hars), in his well-known work on Metallurgy (page 247), is quoted in the prospectus:—"In Asia the most important formation of cinnabar is found in the province of Kwei-Chau, Mid-China. The formation is very extended and traverses the province S.W. to N.E. It is probably the richest in the entire world. The district where the extraction appears the most important would be that of Kaifschow, in the neighbourhood of the chief town of Kwei-jang."

A report by Mr. Chauveau, the very eminent French mining engineer, who investigated the mine in 1896, is also given. On an output of 150 tons per day of crude ore treated as he suggests Mr. Chauveau estimates the profits for 300 working days at not less than £177,000. Taking the cost of mining, transport, and subsequent treatment of crude ore at £2 4s. per ton, which includes administrative expenses and reserve, the daily profit works out as follows:—Say 6,612 lbs. of cinnabar at 2s. 2½d. per lb. £720, say 2,204 lbs. of mercury at 1s. 9½d. per lb. £200—£220, less cost at £2 4s. per ton of crude ore £330—£550, or say for 300 working days a yearly profit of £177,000.

In connection with this estimate a London paper quoted by the *London and China Express*, but the name of which is not given, says:—"There is, no doubt, quicksilver in China, but the statements put forward in the prospectus of the Anglo-French Quicksilver and Mining Concession deserve a word of comment. An estimate is given of a daily production equivalent to an annual output of 35,260 flasks. Now this is very nearly equal to a year's consumption of quicksilver, for the average consumption of some years past has been barely 40,000 flasks. The question of such a large output, to be realised in so restricted a market, is important when it is remembered that one mine in Spain is capable of supplying the world's needs. The present price of quicksilver is a little over £3 per flask. Next year, when the lease of the Almadén Quicksilver Mines will expire, there will be nothing to prevent the Spanish Government from making an output of 50,000 flasks per annum, and this quantity, we understand, they can place upon the market at about £2 per flask, and yet make a profit on the transaction."

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB RACE FOR MR. MITCHELL'S PRIZE AND FINAL CLUB RACE 23RD APRIL.

The boats were favoured with another strong breeze for the final race for the Championship, and the Maid Marion again showed most remarkable qualities and scored another win. The course was:—From the Police Pier, Kowloon, twice round to port Channel Rocks and Meyer's East Buoy; 13 miles. The following boats started:—A Class, 1.15 p.m.—Active, Maid Marion, Phoebe, Erica, Sybil, Chanticleer, and Bonito; B Class, 1.30 p.m.—Princess, Dart, Payne and Ladybird.

The boats generally had two reefs, but in one or two cases three reefs were considered about right for the strength of wind. Shortly before the start the Chanticleer's small jib was blown to rags, which handicapped her considerably in the first beat to Channel Rocks. Erica and Chanticleer made a long tack into Hungsham Bay and got left by the Maid, Bonito and Active. The wind was too much for Phoebe and Sybil, and they gave up soon after crossing the line at the start. The Maid arrived at Channel

Boats with a 4 minutes' lead of Bonito, Erica being about a minute after her, with Active and Chanticleer at intervals of 2 minutes after. This order was kept up to near the Channel Rocks the second time, when the wind got lighter and reefs were shaken out by many of the boats, and Chanticleer passed Active. In rounding Meyer's buoy the last time Erica got in front of Bonito and a quick run brought the boats to the finish.

Maid Marion	3	20	50	10	marks & Mr. Mitchell's A class prize
Erica	3	26	18	4	marks
Bonito	3	26	41	1	"
Chanticleer	3	30	12		
Active	3	35	17		

The total marks made during the season were 55 by the Erica, which secures the Championship by the narrow margin of 5 points; Maid Marion taking the second season's cup with 50 points; the Chanticleer being third with 42. The next in order was the Bonito with 17; then Sybil 14, Active and Meteor, 1 each.

In the B class the Payne went exceedingly well in the hard weather and came in an easy winner in her class, the Princess being second. The times were:—

Payne	3	54	38	10 marks, first, and Mr. Mitchell's B class prize.
Princess	4	1	5	4 marks, second.
Ladybird	4	5	42	1 mark, third.
Dart	4	9	48	

The first and second prizes now lie between the Ladybird with 55 points and the Payne with 58 points, there being one race to be sailed.

The race for Mr. Mitchell's prizes were handicaps. Erica and Maid Marion in the A class allowing Chanticleer 15 sec., Phoebe 4.30, Bonito 5.30, Sybil 6 minutes and Active 8.30; and Ladybird in the B class allowing Payne 1.30, Dart 2, and Princess 4 minutes.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

PEARSON CUP AND SPOONS.

Nineteen members took part in this competition on Saturday, when Captain Carlyle, owing 3 points, registered his second win for the Cup, with a total score of 98. Scores:—

	200 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	Handi- cap.	Total.
Capt. Carlyle, A.O.D.	32	35	31	—	98
Col. Sergt. Blair	34	31	30	—	95
Mr. Skelton	34	27	33	—	94
Mr. Hart	31	29	27	6	88
Mr. Watson	32	29	31	—	92
Sgt. Mr. Wallace, R.E.	30	34	28	—	92
Pte. Pond, E.W.F.	33	32	25	—	90
Sergt. West, R.E.	31	30	28	—	89
Corp. Hills, R.E.	31	31	27	—	89

* Winners of Spoons.

SHOOTING.

"A" MACHINE GUN CO. MONTHLY CARBINE COMPETITION.

Seventeen members took part in the above. The following are the best scores:—

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	Handi- cap.	Total.
Gunner Wodehouse	28	19	22	23	92
Sergeant Lamert	31	30	28	ac.	89
Gunner J. G. Smith	27	27	20	11	85
Gunner Morrell	18	21	15	30	84
Gunner King	22	21	16	23	82
Gunner Cox	16	19	22	24	81
Gunner H. R. Holmes	20	21	14	24	79

Winner of No. 1 and 2 Cups, Gunner Wodehouse. Winners of Spoons.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

BEST SCORE-POOL FOR APRIL.

Following returns were handed in:—

Mr. H. L. Dabrymple	95	8	87
Mr. B. H. Hill	101	12	89

19 entries.

Captain's Cup will be played for from 6th to 8th inst. Profession pairs.—Entries close on 24th inst. at the Club-house, when conditions are posted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE HINTERLAND.—ANOTHER VIEW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In the *China Mail* of 27th inst. over the *nom deplume* of "Observer" and in your issue of 28th idem over that of "Justice" there appears an attempt to praise the "High Commissioner" of the New Territory for his action in re the events which have and are taking place there. It is this fulsome flattery in British colonies which spoils the officials. They are well able to take care of themselves, and any resident of a few years' standing will not have failed to notice how prone good officials are to pat one another's backs on every occasion that offers, as witness the numerous laudatory addresses presented to departing luminaries from this colony. That the signatories do not invariably endorse what they subscribe their names to is an open secret. I have heard from the subordinates of one recently departed official that they cordially detested him, yet he was the recipient from them of a most exemplary address. A little wholesome straightforward criticism would do more towards opening the eyes of our local blunderers than all the flattery which is being showered on them by a few toadies. That our High Commissioner has made a sorry exhibition of himself and his country not even he will deny, and the attempts to give him credit for that which he has left undone are an insult to the intelligence of the Colony generally. It is well known that the villagers were as active in the recent *émeute* as any one else. That they are now peaceably inclined is not in any measure due to the leniency extended to them by the "Commissioner" but is a result of the wholesome fear instilled into them by cold lead. The Chinese respect authority wielded with firmness and they correspondingly despise vacillation and timidity in their rulers.—Yours obediently,

COLONIST.

Hongkong, 28th April, 1899.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A JUNTA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I am very proud of the fact that I am able to answer "Inquirer's" question re "Who or what is a Philippine Junta?" I am not surprised that the gentle inquirer should be puzzled as to what this strange institution is that has crept into our midst and become a part of our body politic. In fact, during the early part of the American-Spanish war I thought the Hongkong Junta, to which the home papers so continually referred, was a fresh addition to the Zoological department of the Botanical Gardens. I asked a policeman on Queen's Road one day if he could direct me to the Hongkong Junta. He looked a bit frightened for a moment and replied, "Go way wid you, did you take me for a dynamiter?" According to Webster there is a "Junta" and a "Junto." A "Junta" is described as "A grand council of state in Spain," a "Junto" as "A select council which deliberates in secret . . . a collection of men combined for secret . . . intrigue . . . a faction; a cabal." A Junto is illustrated in the definition by a stanza from Thomson:—

The puzzling sons of party next appeared,
In dark cabals and mighty Juntos set."

Hongkong has much to be proud of in being the possessor of a bona fide "Junto." They are quite the fashion in Europe and America, London, Paris, New York, and Tall-Puddle: all have their Juntos. Any town that has any ambition to see its name immortalized by the *Singapore Free Press* should form a Junta. It is not a difficult or expensive undertaking, judging from the class of individuals it is alleged make up the much-boomed Hongkong Junta. And for one out of a job, I cannot think of a more enviable position than head of the Department of Publicity and Promotion of a good healthy Junta. Of course there is always that disquieting Ordinance No. 8 of 1882 hanging over one's devoted head, but that is only a detail after all.

While I am answering "Inquirer's" question I would like to ask the Editor if it is true that our proud local Jun to is preparing to give Admiral Dewey a public demonstration as he passes through Hongkong on his way to America. If it is, I trust the No. 1 Boy of the Junta will not overlook the mercantile community in sending out its invitations. I am an admirer of Juntos.

DON MOLOLOS.

Hongkong, 28th April, 1899.

A JOKE, OR WHAT?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In your issue of the 28th inst. under "Canton Notes" there stands:—"On the 19th instant about thirty gentry belonging to the Kowloon new territory presented a petition to the Governor of Canton when H.E. was passing along the street, asking him to consult with the Hongkong Government and to request them not to lay so heavy a tax on land and houses, as it was rumoured that heavy taxes modelled upon those of Hongkong were about to be established."

What is the meaning of this? Why, my dear sir, it was only the other day that with much casting of bread upon the waters we told those good people that now they were under our benign rule they need no longer fear the tyranny and oppression of the rascally mandarins! Well! Well! Some people are never satisfied. Do they then take us for greater tyrants than those whom we are going to replace? Appearances are certainly against us. Can you, sir, or any of your numerous readers explain away the apparent anomaly?—Yours truly,

PERLEXED.

Canton, 29th April, 1899.

THE CHINESE IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Although you do not hold yourself responsible for the opinions expressed by those persons who enjoy sending to your correspondence column articles which, alas, too often could have been left out without extraordinarily great loss to the general public, you will please allow me to say that it is surprising to find in your paper an article such as the one published in yesterday's issue, regarding Sir Robert Hart's proposal re Kowloon Customs. I do not know the intentions of the author of this article in asking you to publish his opinion, but I wish to say that such nonsense as the letter in question should find its place in the waste-paper basket. The Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs is controlled by a man who knows his business. Its rules, regulations, and actions are, I have every reason to believe, not intelligible for persons such as Mr. "Fan Kwai," and I take the liberty of advising him to confine in future his satirical remarks to an audience which—like himself—is totally unable to see the stupidity they contain.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

TRUTH.

Hongkong, 29th April, 1899.

THE RECENT DISTURBANCES AND THE FRONTIER OF THE COLONY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In your leading article of 26th April you say that it is reported that the Hongkong branch of the Navy League has wired to the parent Association recommending amongst other things that the boundary of the New Territory should be extended to the East River. You then criticise that suggestion adversely, and with all due respect to you I beg to submit that your views as there given are somewhat contradictory and mistaken.

You first state that when Great Britain goes to Canton she will probably go by virtue of a protectorate established over the whole or a part of China and to administer the territory in the name of the Emperor of China. Such a thing might be desirable, but it is certainly impracticable in the face of the claims already put forward by other Powers, and you seem to realize that, for, continuing you say:—"If, unfortunately, the protectorate policy should prove impracticable"

and annexation be forced upon us we would require vastly more than the territory lying between Kowloon and the East River and the taking of that strip at the present moment would be calculated to precipitate a scramble in which it is possible that British interests in other parts of China might suffer." I really fail to see that taking what is a very wise and necessary step at the present juncture, when the annexation of that aggressive district of Tungkun is to a certain extent forced upon us, and which will give us possession of the very important Bogue Forts, will be precipitating a scramble; for none of the other Powers are prepared at the moment for that scramble and any moderation on our part will not influence them in modifying the programme they have laid down for themselves, judging by analogy. In the light of the past, is it not a fact that a disinclination on our part to take responsibilities which our destinies mark out as necessary for the protection of our prestige and our trade is the signal for them to advance claims that they would otherwise never have dreamt of making? France might pick a quarrel with China to-morrow—there is never wanting an excuse for one—seize the Bogue Forts, and then refuse to vacate them. We should then be under the unpleasant necessity of accepting the situation or declaring war on her by turning her out. Sunon is essentially a mountainous district and a poor district, but we will without doubt render it prosperous when developed. Tungkun, however, is a fertile delta, every inch of which is cultivated; a district where floods and famines are unknown and a large importer of foreign goods as well as an exporter of rice and manufactured goods. Tungkun, with its network of creeks, hardly requires roads and will at once yield a revenue for administrative purposes without requiring a large outlay for public works. If the two districts Sunon and Tungkun are administered together they will form the nucleus of our future Chinese dominions. If we will want much more let us begin by the gradual absorption of the adjacent districts, and having them under control we will find less difficulty in taking over and administering larger areas, both ourselves and the people learning how to adjust the machinery of government to the requirements of those we are to rule over.

As to a Custom-house for Hongkong, such need not be the case if Hongkong and the New Territory are under separate administrations, Hongkong remaining a free port.

Failing this the present claims we have on account of duplicity and invasion on the part of the Chinese should be pressed and British Residents appointed to the adjoining districts.

BRITISHER.

Hongkong, 2nd May, 1899.

THE CHINESE IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I beg to trespass again on your space to make reply to the letter, under the above heading, signed "Truth." He says that he does not know my intentions in asking you to publish my opinions re Sir Robert Hart's proposals for the establishment of his authority, in various forms, in our midst. At the time that I wrote my previous letter and when I sent it off, I was unaware that the Government had wisely declined to entertain the preposterous proposals put forward. Had I been aware of that fact I should have considered my letter unnecessary; its object was to, by well deserved satire, prevent their acceptance. Had there not been some hope entertained of their acceptance the proposals would hardly have been advanced by that veteran Chinese diplomat the head of the Customs.

"Truth" (I dispute his title to that name) says the Chinese Customs is controlled by a man who knows his business. I take that to mean who knows what he wants. In this case he knows now what he is not going to get.

"Truth," further, says that he has reason to believe that the rules, regulations, and actions of the Chinese Customs are not intelligible to persons like myself. Unfortunately for his theory, I have reason for being intimately acquainted with said rules, regulations, and

actions and can vouch for the fact that "for ways that are dark and tricks that are vain the Heathen's Customs is peculiar."

What I am now grieving over is that owing to the etiquette of the Press I cannot ask for the identity of your correspondent "Truth," as I feel particularly anxious to sit at his feet and learn to amend some of my stupidity by drinking in the wisdom which he infers is so abounding in himself. He is evidently either a member of or connected in some way with that estimable service which he champions.

FAN KWAI.

Hongkong, 3rd May, 1899.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of the 2nd inst., in the leading article, you say that the I. M. Customs have an office in London and compare that institution with the Kowloon head office in the Queen's Road. I now submit that the two cases are not analogous. The London office is a commercial agency. The Kowloon head office is an office where executive functions are carried on, fines inflicted, petitions heard, and, in short, the Commissioner carries out the duties of his office in the same way as at an outpost. His every act in the British colony of Hongkong is highly illegal. Nor is this all. Informers are heard and paid in this establishment, and thus we nourish in our midst a hand on the throat of the commerce of Hongkong. With the usual apologies,—I remain, yours truly,

H. H. B.

Hongkong, 3rd May, 1899.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tientsin, 19th April.

The Italian affair is in *statu quo*; coupled with the Belgian demands at Hankow and the impending visit of Danish cruisers, accompanied on dit by two Swedish vessels, it has aroused Chinese officialdom as nothing else has since 1895. Captains Yeh and Sa, the two senior officers of the Chinese Navy, and two of Admiral Lang's best men, have been summoned by wire to Peking. They had protracted interviews with the Naval and Provincial authorities here on their way through, and two days ago were received in audience by the *Shi Tai Ho* and *Kwang Sau*. I am confident that they have been consulted on the subject of resistance should any minor Power try force on the Chinese littoral.

There is a general impression in Naval circles that one or both of these gentlemen will shortly be raised to flag rank. Unlike the late Admiral Ting, they are both practical sailors, educated at Fochow and Greenwich and subsequently serving under Admirals Frazer and Lang.

With the arrival in June of the two new Elswick cruisers and the four Elban destroyers China will again have some naval potency, provided she can find the personnel. Of this there is some doubt, as most of the crews and junior officers were utterly neglected after the capture of Weihaiwei, and lapsed back into civil life. I personally know a few of the ex-officers. The utter hopelessness of promotion by merit or seniority disgusted them with the Service and in no case are they desirous to return.

The Anglo-Italian combination known as the Peking Syndicate is being pushed into public prominence by many little occult and overt impulses. We are informed up here by Signor Luzzati that Mr. George Jamieson has accepted a seat at the Board. This is our first intimation that that distinguished Consul had retired from H.M. Service. An item has also been communicated to the Press for publicity that Li Hung-chang has applied for £4,000 worth of shares. This stone is probably meant to kill a couple of birds: it may lead to enhanced confidence in the investing public, and it may, in the satrap's opinion, tend to rehabilitate him in the good graces of the British public.

Li is none the worse for his winter sojourn near the Huang Ho: indeed the two or three foreigners who have seen him think that physically he is in better form than at any time since the war. His levees both here and in Peking are entirely adverse to the opinion that he is a stranded politician. The moment

anything requiring courage, *nous*, and responsibility has to be done in Chinese foreign affairs you may depend Li will be called in, simply and solely because the other big officials will all refuse.

In Tientsin we have had real excitement over a new departure in the handling of export cargo by the pooled steamer companies. They issued a short notice that shippers must themselves take the responsibility of getting the cargo down stream and alongside the steamers. The shippers objected strongly to the shortness of the notice and to the application of the new method during running contracts. Through the medium of the Chamber of Commerce they resisted, and took up an equally haughty and aggressive attitude. The three companies will not budge and war has practically been declared by the shippers inviting (in their private capacity) Messrs. Siemssen, Messrs. Melchers in Hongkong, and the Japanese to enter into competition with the monopolists. They have even gone further and are now trying to boycott the P. & O., the Blue Funnels, and the Glens from carrying Tientsin stuff home; they probably hope these big fellows will bring pressure to bear on the little fellows (the coasters). The whole quarrel has arisen in the difficulties of navigating our ditch, yclept Pei Ho. It is to be regretted on every account. Impartial observers cannot resist the conclusion that a little less obtrusiveness and a little more of the *saviter in modo* on both sides might have obviated the whole thing!

Meanwhile the river is improving; thanks to the works in hand. Last week a large steamer reached the Bund. Unhappily she stuck for two days on going down stream, and her experience has deterred others. The deep draught lighters of the Taku Tug and Lighter Co. when drawing 6 feet find no trouble with the channel.

Socially we are subsiding from the high spirits of the winter, sport is, however, in the ascendant. We brought off our first Bicycle Gymkhana with great success, the ladies especially distinguishing themselves. The Tourney Club has nearly sixty members, and the "wheel" fervour is even infecting the Sons of Han.

Griffins are retiring into the seclusion of a prohibitive price, thanks to combination on the part of the dealers. This will, if not obviated, greatly affect junior owners and beginners. The low price of ponies has always given the small men a chance on the Tientsin turf, but if things go on as at present, racing will become a privilege only of the well-to-do. Our races are fixed for May 15th, 16th, and 17th. Cricket is in evidence. The Club has taken a bold step in challenging Shanghai. If those Capnans could come up, no doubt Peking would also like to try issues with them, and a North v. South might be had in addition to the Tientsin v. Shanghai.

There is an unusual shuffle in the official cards this spring. Consular and Customs men are being changed *ad libitum*. Mr. Drew, of Canton, succeeds Mr. A. G. Hippisley in the Commissionership here. Mr. J. R. Brazier's many friends in the South will be glad to hear of his promotion to Secretary-in-chief, with the rank of a Senior Commissioner.

Not a few in Hongkong will regret to hear of the death of Mr. R. A. Anderson, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, in Peking last week. Mr. Anderson only came up a month ago from Shanghai to assist the Peking staff in a press of business; he succumbed to typhoid. He was greatly liked and esteemed for his business and social qualities and his death is widely and deeply regretted.

THE DOCKING OF THE "VICTORIOUS."

DIFFICULTY AT YOKOSUKA.

Nagasaki, 26th April.

Considerable difficulty is being experienced in docking H.M.S. *Victorious* at Yokosuka. Everything that could possibly be moved, including all except the biggest guns, down even to the middies' chests, has been taken out of the mammoth battleship, but she must still be lightened nine inches before she can enter the dock. Advantage will be taken of a high tide next Tuesday to make a final attempt.—*Nagasaki Press*.

THE MUTUAL STORE EMBEZZLEMENT CASE.**HOPKINS BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE.**

At the Magistracy on the 2nd April, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Reginald George Hopkins was brought up on a charge of embezzling \$1,000, the property of the Mutual Stores, Hongkong.

Mr. Hastings—I appear for the prosecution, and I propose to prove arrest, put in the warrant, and then to ask your worship for a remand.

His Worship (to defendant)—Do you admit this charge or not.

Defendant—No, sir.

Inspector Moffat said—On the 5th inst. I attended Her Majesty's Consular Court at Shanghai and produced a true copy of the original warrant of arrest together with a true copy of the original information. I also showed the original warrant, which was endorsed by the British Magistrate at Shanghai. That is now produced by me. I also gave evidence as to identification of defendant. On the 22nd inst. I received the order of rendition signed by Mr. Bax Ironside, Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires in China, and this I produce. On the 24th inst. I took charge of defendant at the British prison at Shanghai and took him on board the P. and O. steamer *Ballaarat*, which arrived here on the 27th inst. I also received from the gaoler at the British prison at Shanghai defendant's property, which consisted of three boxes, one Gladstone bag, one wicker basket, and a small paper package. I also received from the gaoler \$35 in notes and \$3.20 in coins. I saw defendant searched in the charge-room at the Central Police Station at Hongkong on the 27th, and an American \$10 gold piece was found on him.

His Worship—Mr. Hopkins, you have heard what Mr. Moffat has said. Have you any questions to ask him?

Defendant—No, sir.

Mr. Hastings then said that he wished to renew the application which he made some little time ago under section 23 of Ordinance 2 of 1889, for an order on the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for liberty to inspect and take copies of the entries in defendant's account.

His Worship remarked, however, that he had not power under section 23 to enforce the order, and he should not make an order which he could not enforce.

Mr. Hastings—If your worship will grant a subpoena on the accountant of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank we may get over the difficulty.

His Worship said he would do that on the necessary declaration being made.

Mr. Hastings added that he would have to ask for several remands. The accounts were in such a bad state that they had not been able to go into them on account of the difficulty as to the bank-book.

The case was remanded until Wednesday next.

His Worship—Do you apply for bail.

Defendant—No.

At the Magistracy on the 3rd April, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Reginald G. Hopkins (aged 29), clerk, was again brought up on the charge that he "on or about the 21st day of March, 1899, at Victoria, in this colony, then being a member of the co-partnership under the style of the Mutual Store, feloniously did steal or embezzle the sum of \$1,000, being the property of the said co-partnership, contrary to Ordinance 3 of 1886, section 2."

Mr. O. D. Thomson (Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Grist (Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defence.

Mr. Thomson said he should have to ask for a further remand for a week, as they had not been able to get any further evidence.

Mr. Grist—A week is a long time. I would ask if Monday would be convenient.

His Worship—Monday is a heavy day for me as a rule.

Mr. Grist—Then say Tuesday.

The further hearing was accordingly adjourned until Tuesday afternoon next.

There were 2,109 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 339 were Europeans.

ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO CUT AND WOUND.

At the Magistracy on the 4th May, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Michael Ryan, an oiler on the *Charleston*, was charged with trying to cut and wound Frederick Melhuish, of the Criterion Hotel.

Complainant said that at about half-past eleven on Wednesday night defendant came to the bar of the Criterion Hotel, and began to use very obscene language. When he told him to stop he said he would not leave off for him and called him a foul name. He then ordered him away upon which defendant rushed at him, holding the clasp knife produced, which was open, in his right hand over his shoulder. Complainant then knocked him down and took the knife from his grasp. He was slightly cut on the finger. He called for assistance and a member of the Garrison Police assisted him to take defendant to the Police Station. The man was under the influence of liquor at the time, but he had had no drink at his place.

Two gunners in the Royal Artillery corroborated.

Defendant made a long statement to the effect that complainant attacked him, and as he seemed to be getting the worst of it he pulled out his knife to scare him, but he never intended to use it.

His Worship was satisfied defendant assaulted the landlord, but did not think he intended to use the knife, and he would consequently only deal with the case as one of common assault; defendant would be fined \$10, or 14 days.

ALLEGED "FILIBUSTERING."

The suit instituted Mr. E. B. Drew, Commissioner of Customs at Canton, against Mr. W. F. Sylvester, an American citizen, came before the American Consul-General at Shanghai on the 29th April as referee. The circumstances were these: Mr. Edward B. Drew, the petitioner, brought an action against the defendant W. F. Sylvester, of the firm Louis Spitzel & Co., in the Consular Court at Canton, in that he, being a citizen of the United States, and Commissioner of the Imperial Maritime Customs at Canton, had under certain circumstances demanded the sum of Tls. 15,000, which he alleged had become due under a bond made by the defendant. From the petition it appeared that the bond bore date of August 2nd, 1898, and that on that day the defendant applied for a Customs permit to ship 500 Mauser rifles, and 500,000 Mauser cartridges by the American steamer *Abbey*, which was at that time lying at Canton, for Singapore. There was a clause in the bond that a Consular certificate from Singapore as to the arrival of the ammunition should be produced within six weeks from the date of the shipment, and upon that being done, the bond should be "void." The ammunition, however, was never conveyed to Singapore, but was taken to the Island of Luzon, where it was discharged and that therefore under the bond the sum of Tls. 15,000 had become payable. The answer of Mr. Sylvester was an admission of the execution of the document referred to, but a denial that it had any binding effect upon him, or that he was under any legal obligation whatsoever in respect thereof, in fact, it was void *ab initio*.

Mr. Wilkinson appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Platt represented the defendant.

The award was held over.

THE EXPLOITATION OF SZECHUEN.

Chungking, 17th April.

Capt. Davies reached Yunnan-fu on his way from Burmah on 1st inst. Capt. Pottinger's survey party is still in the Pichieh-hien district, in north-western Kueichow about three weeks' march from Yunnan-fu.

Acting Consul Litton reached Kueiyang-fu on 7th inst., having travelled the 16 stages from Chungking in ten days. He left again for Panghai, the scene of Mr. Fleming's murder, on the following day. The headman of the village, who instigated this outrage, is known to be in hiding in this district, and Mr.

Litton insists upon the Governor of Kueichow having him brought to justice.

French Consul Haas, who has been in Chengtu for the last two months seeking to get a settlement of the Roman Catholic Mission claims, is to be delayed there for another month.

The Japanese Consul is also in Chengtu and intends to visit Yunnan-fu after his return.

Major Radcliff, who arrived here on 9th inst., left again for the coast on 1st inst., having made a large scale survey of the Upper Yangtze. *China Gazette* correspondent.

CHANG CHIH-TUNG ON GERMAN ACTION IN SHANTUNG.

The Chinese papers report that the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has addressed a long despatch to the Tsung-li Yamen and a memorial to the Empress-Dowager on the question of the Germans in Shantung. Our contemporary says that Chang dwells upon the manifest wrong and injury, which Germany is inflicting upon China by her action in Shantung. In his opinion Germany is determined to take possession of the whole of Shantung province (and he might add to declare Prince Henry of Prussia, Governor-General or Viceroy). Chang concludes by saying that if China was sure this was really Germany's intention, she should without question up her mind to enter upon one last struggle for her integrity. But when China asked the Germans their intentions they declared their troops in Shantung were only intended for the protection of their missionaries, upon which the Viceroy remarks "I do not believe they are." He implores all the high officers of the Central Government to give the matter the closest attention and to devote their energies to ascertaining the real intentions and aims of the Germans and to send the Throne early and correct information on the matter. Chang evidently sees what is coming to China. *China Gazette*.

ICHOUFU.**THE GERMAN OCCUPATION.**

10th April.

As indicated in my last letter, and confirmed by my telegram of the 3rd instant, the anti-foreign disturbance at this place have at length roused the German Government to action with startling effect. On the 30th of March a cruiser landed a number of troops, variously stated at from eighty to one hundred and forty, at a point near Jihchao city. They marched to the city only to find the gates closed. According to all classical precedents as found in the *Three Kingdoms* and other standard works, they should then have sat down, after soundly cursing the city and its official, and entered into prolonged negotiation. What did these unconventional barbarians do, however, but promptly insert a "long thin thing" through the crack in the gate and saw the bar of the gate in two; after which they rudely shoved the gate wide open and marched into the *hstion yamen*, where they proceeded to make themselves very much at home, and at latest accounts seem to be in no particular hurry to leave.

At the same time they landed a force of fifty or sixty men about one hundred and fifty li further south and thirty li north of Ch'ing'ku. These proceeded at once to the village of Hanchiat'sun, one hundred and fifty li from the coast and seventy li south-east of this city. This was the place where the three Germans were attacked, as related in my last letter. They notified the people that they intended to burn the village, which they proceeded to do as soon as the inhabitants had fled. It seems that they burned about half of the place, which is a large and rather wealthy village. Next day they went back to the coast. They sent on to this city two proclamations in Chinese, one of which announced that they proposed to occupy Jihchao until the pending cases are settled, and the other stated their purpose to burn Hanchiat'sun in retaliation for the attack upon the Germans.

The officials here were very much frightened, and, as is usual under such circumstances, came to the foreigner for advice. We urged them to settle the pending cases at once, as the only possible means of securing the return of the

Germans to Tsintao. The officer in command of the few troops which were here is strongly anti-foreign. He proposed to go out and meet the enemy. He thought that a few words from him would turn them back, but if they would not listen to reason then he would be compelled to force! When the people heard that the Germans had gone back to the coast they at once concluded that they were afraid to face the redoubtable Major who made the above striking proposition.

Yesterday and to-day troops have been coming in from Têngchowfu and Chefoo. There are now about two thousand soldiers in the city.

Rumours of all kinds are flying about, and the feeling on the street is not as friendly as we would like to see it. In spite of the fright and profuse promises of the officials, we do not seem to be any nearer to getting our various cases settled than we were a month ago. The fatuous blindness of these men is almost past belief. Verily, whom the gods would destroy they first make mad, or, to answer the purpose even better, hopelessly conceited.—N. C. Daily News correspondent.

THE FILIPINOS AND THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK.

A SETTLEMENT ARRIVED AT.

The claim made upon the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank by Aguinaldo's representatives for the \$200,000 deposited with the Bank has been settled, the money having been paid.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

THE MASSACRE AT TALIAN-WAN.

The *Kobe Chronicle* translated from a Japanese paper the following press despatch dated Tokyo, 20th April:—

The Chinese Government recently opened negotiations with the Russian Government through the Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg to obtain redress for the shooting of Chinese peasants by Russian soldiers at Liao-tung. It is reported that Count Muravieff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed the Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg that the Russian Government would not consent to the Chinese demand even if Chinese men-of-war appeared in the Baltic and Chinese troops at St. Petersburg. The Chinese Minister immediately telegraphed the reply to the Peking Government, but received instructions from the Empress Dowager to continue the negotiations.

FIGHTING BETWEEN COSSACKS AND CHINESE.

We are indebted to a prominent retired Chinese official, now living at Shanghai for the following news received by him from a nephew who is an official in Kashgaria:—A force of Cossacks from the Russian side of the frontier tried on the 3rd of April to cross the Chakmak Pass, but were successfully opposed by a squadron of Chinese and Burut Khirghiz troopers. After several hours' desultory firing the Cossacks recrossed to their own side, just as two mountain guns brought up from the fort ten miles to the east, began to fire on them. Reinforcements are urgently needed both in Kashgaria as well as in Ili. Great anxiety is being felt about the present state of affairs in the New Dominion. The Taotai and the General commanding here (Kashgar city) have jointly petitioned Governor Jao that they refuse to accept responsibility in suppressing outbreaks amongst the Mahomedans here unless reinforcements be promptly sent to them. At least 5,000 infantry and 3,000 cavalry are required at once. They are all horsemen in this part of the country, hence the necessity of having strong bodies of cavalry to patrol the disaffected districts. Chakmak is a pass leading from Pamir into the Yengishar district.—N. C. Daily News.

An American blue-jacket from the *Charleston*, named Jeremiah O'Sullivan, died suddenly in a house in Graham street, on Tuesday night, heart disease being supposed to have been the cause of death.

THE RULERS OF CHINA.

According to our native correspondent at Peking, China is now ruled by two Manchus—namely, the Grand Secretary Jung Lu and the Assistant Grand Secretary Kang Yi. The Empress Dowager defers implicitly to the advice of these two men, who are clever enough to give the credit and responsibility of all their decisions to the Empress Dowager. The great ambition of Jung Lu is to be proclaimed Grand Generalissimo of the forces of the whole Empire and he has been working his best to bring the 70,000 or 80,000 men under his special command in Chihli province up to the best state possible, as far as within him lies, in regard to modern equipments and discipline. Hence he does not often interfere in purely civil departmental matters, these being generally left to Kang Yi, who has the reputation of being a bigot and the bitterest enemy of the Reform Party. Jung Lu, who is more of a soldier, being the nearest living relation of the Empress Dowager has naturally the most influence over her. He is much less of a bigot and has hitherto always counselled moderation and effectually prevented the sword and fire policy of Kang Yi against the Reform Party—and against all foreigners, for that matter. Jung Lu, therefore, possesses more popularity amongst the masses than any half-a-dozen mandarins put together in Peking.—N. C. Daily News.

WEI-AI-WEI.

18th April.

The territory leased to the British Government lies for the most part in Wentenghsien, but a certain portion lies in Yungchingsien. As mentioned in my last, the British authorities issued a proclamation forbidding payment of taxes to the Chinese officials within the leased area. This was shortly followed by one from the local magistrate, a Sz, forbidding any interference with the former proclamation. So far the British authorities have not issued instructions as to how or when the taxes are to be paid. Meantime the natives are in a dilemma, for, it is said, the Yungching magistrate has issued an order to the village headmen urging them to collect the taxes as usual, enquiring the cause of the delay, speaking of the contents of the British proclamation as "rumour," and undertaking that the taxes will not require to be paid a second time under any circumstances. This order is what is called a *Yu-fish* and whilst your correspondent has not seen a copy himself, his authority for this statement is fairly good. Taxes in this locality are collected by a headman, the heads of families taking the duty in yearly terms. This headman is permitted to charge a small sum for the receipt which he brings back to such taxpayer from the *hsien*—say about twenty cash, sometimes less. So the business is not lucrative, and like the sheriff of an English county, the *ti-fang* stands to lose money. One of these men is said to have been beaten for failing to make his returns since the aforementioned proclamation was issued. The Yungching magistrate has only an acting appointment there, and is about to be removed. As his share of the taxes amounts to something like twenty-five per cent, he is naturally anxious to make what hay he can in the little sunshine left to him. Moreover, natives themselves have no idea of the limits of the British territory; no proclamation defining them has ever been effectively issued, and even had that put out by the high authorities some months ago been circulated, who is to say how far thirty li from the Weihai Bay shore extends? Here, as elsewhere in China, a li is more or less "accordingly." It is to be hoped the authorities will shortly put an end to this very unsatisfactory state of things.

Food-stuffs increase in price. Maize, imported from Manchuria, is the principal grain used. Five years ago it sold at about sixteen cash per catty, now it fetches say thirty or thirty-two. At what figure must prices stand before it will pay to import from America? Could not a cargo be made to pay at present rates? It would find a ready market. The new magistrate at Wenteng has issued a proclamation offering to distribute one hundred "passports" to the merchants here, to enable them to obtain grain at places where its export is at present prohibited.

To add to the troubles of the people, there is an epidemic of measles abroad, with a high infant mortality. Some other disease of a gastric character is also epidemic.

An architect has arrived to build summer residences on ground purchased on the mainland by a Shanghai syndicate, not far from Flagstaff Point, on which the North lighthouse is built. It is said that building lots have also been purchased in Half Moon Bay, which lies about two miles from the *mat'ou*.

It is stated, too, that a Shanghai syndicate has lately purchased some gold mines in the neighbourhood and that work on these will shortly commence.

The most sanguine could hardly say that the Post Office gives satisfaction. A more frequent delivery, with an occasional saving in time when a steamer calls with a bag for the Weihai office on board, will probably sum up its advantages. But, so far, no arrangement seems to have been made for the European mail for Weihai to come by direct steamer. Certain it is the last English mail went up to Chefoo, though two steamers came in from Shanghai that morning, one of them bringing the mail for the fleet. It seems absurd, however, to charge domestic postage on some international mail papers, belated, and brought in by direct steamer a few days later, whereas the same papers would have been delivered free in Chefoo. Parcels, too, were charged double domestic rates by direct steamer; single rates only are levied in Chefoo.

On the other hand, it is right to give praise when praise is due, and since the Imperial Post Office was instituted I have not lost a letter. Is that because I use French stamps which are cheaper than British? Would our friends in Shanghai and elsewhere not do well to send their correspondence through the French Office, and so save a little money in these days of close cutting—besides, of course, saving the Hongkong Office not a little trouble?

The *Alacrité* arrived to-day. The *Iphigenia* and *Phoenix* are the only other ships in harbour. The *Centurion* is expected to-morrow.—N. C. Daily News correspondent.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE AT MANILA.

The *American* contains the following account of a sensational occurrence at Manila:—

A fashionable resort at No. 30, Calle Real, was on the 18th April the scene of an attempted murder of a dashing blonde, and the fatal suicide of the ardent lover. The patrol had just passed down the street upon his beat and was halting weary pedestrians who were out after seven o'clock, when the sharp crack of two pistol shots resounded on the still night. The guard hurried back to where the sound came from and rushed upstairs to find Lieutenant Guerri of the Spanish reserve, lying dead in a pool of blood with a bullet through his brain from a 45 Smith and Wesson revolver, caused by his own hand.

A young woman with flaxen hair and hazel eyes, with a bullet wound through her right breast, was lying back in a rocking chair in a dead faint, while a sorrowing mother was bending over her daughter who she thought was dying. The guard soon took in the situation and called for a glass of water and when the young lady had revived, she walked to the drugstore on the corner unaided. A doctor was called and the wound dressed. In the meantime the body of the dead lieutenant was sent to the hospital of San Juan de Dios, from which place his funeral took place on the 19th.

The following is the true story of the affair by the Mother of Lolita Fernandez, the young lady in question, and upon whom the attempt to murder was made:—

"My daughter kept company with the lieutenant when he was in the army. He knew my daughter was to come into a large amount of money when she became of age. She for a time accepted his attentions. He later resigned his commission and has done nothing since. That was over a year ago. About five months ago my daughter learned that he was not the man she thought he was and as a dutiful daughter told me so. I then forbid him my house and my daughter also did the same. He called several times during that time but only on other pretexts. Tuesday night he called;

my daughter was sitting in the drawing room when he entered and said he came for the last time and wished to say good-bye. My daughter still retained her seat, when he pulled the revolver from his pocket and fired at her. She raised her hands and then fell in a faint. He thought he had accomplished his deadly work and turning, he placed the revolver to the temple of his head and fired. His death must have been instantaneous, for his face was terribly powder burnt. An inquest was held and the verdict read: "That the deceased, Lieutenant Tomas Guerri, came to his death from a pistol shot discharged by his own hand." The above created quite a sensation in Spanish society circles, as both were prominent members, and were known in the city.

THE PRESS CENSORSHIP AT MANILA.

Manila, 23rd April.

There have been complaints filed at this office by our readers regarding the cablegrams published by *The American*. One writer states that he does not care for so much foreign news but wants more home news, especially anything regarding the army.

For the benefit of such readers we would state that many cablegrams are received from the United States but are suppressed by the press censor for good and sufficient reasons.

On Friday a portion of one of our cablegrams was suppressed and yesterday one entire despatch was censored, this office receiving nothing but the words: "American, Manila, from Hongkong; text suppressed by press censor."

The administration is doubtless as anxious to be relieved of the burden of censoring both incoming and outgoing news cablegrams as the press and general public are that such censorship cease.

When in the opinion of the authorities the proper time arrives the freedom of the press will be as fully permitted in the Philippines as is at present in the United States.—*The American*.

SHANGHAI SPRING RACES.

FIRST DAY TUESDAY, 2ND MAY.

The SUBSCRIPTION GRIFFIN PLATE; value Tls. 150; for subscription griffins of this meeting; second pony, Tls. 50; third pony, Tls. 25; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. Three-quarters of a mile.

Dianna Forget	1
Alphabet	2
Sunrise	3

Time, 1 min. 40 sec.

The CRITERION STAKES; a sweepstakes of Tls. 10 each, with Tls. 150 added; second pony, Tls. 50; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale. One mile.

Yangtze	1
Sandstorm	2
Aeolus	3

Time, 2 min. 10 sec.

The GRIFFINS' PLATE; value, Tls. 300; second pony, Tls. 75; third pony, Tls. 50; for China ponies that have never run at any meeting; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. Three-quarters of a mile.

Callisto	1
Standard Rose	2
Loyalty	3

Time, 1 min. 33 1/2 sec.

The CATHAY CUP; value, Tls. 150; second pony, Tls. 50; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; griffins at date of entry allowed 7 lbs.; entrance, Tls. 5. One mile and a half.

Shannon	1
Canopus	2
The Broker	3

Time, 3 min. 26 sec.

The JOCKEY CUP; value, Tls. 100; second pony, Tls. 25; for China ponies that have never won a race; to be ridden by jockeys who have never had more than two winning mounts; jockeys: non-winners allowed 5 lbs. winner of one race, weight for inches as per scale; winners of two races, 7 lbs. extra; entrance, Tls. 5. Once round.

Gheesy	1
Emerald	2

The OFFCAST 8
Time, 2 min. 43 1/2 sec.

The HART LEGACY CUP; presented by the late James Hart; value, Tls. 100; second pony, Tls. 25; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. Half-a-mile.

Beachnut	1
Impulse	2
Ariel	3

Time, 1 min. 1 1/2 sec.

The KIANG-SU PLATE; value, Tls. 140; second pony, Tls. 50; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. One mile and three-quarters.

The Broker	1
Sin bad	2
Scotsman	3

Time 3 min. 59 sec.

The RACING STAKES; a sweepstakes of Tls. 10 each; first pony 70 per cent., second pony 20 per cent., third pony 10 per cent.; for China ponies that have not run before 1st January, 1899; weight for inches as per scale; griffins at date of entry and non-winners allowed 5 lbs.; extra. One mile and a quarter.

Interrogation	1
Rose de France	2
Queenslander	3

Time, 2 min. 42 sec.

The CHIH LI CUP; value, Tls. 150; second pony, Tls. 25; for subscription griffins of this meeting; weight for inches as per scale; winner of the subscription griffins' plate, 7 lbs. extra; entrance, Tls. 5. One mile.

Atani	1
Satan	2
Sunrise	3

Time, 2 min. 11 1/2 sec.

The GRAND STAND STAKES a sweepstakes of Tls. 5 each, with Tls. 50 added for second pony and Tls. 25 for third pony; for China ponies being *bond fide* griffins at date of entry which had not arrived in Shanghai or been purchased prior to 1st February 1899; weight for inches as per scale; winner of any race 7 lbs. extra. One mile.

Merrylegs	1
Loyalty	2
Emerald	3

Time, 2 min. 8 1/2 sec.

SECOND DAY, WEDNESDAY, 3RD MAY.

The CHU-KA-ZA CUP; value, Tls. 125; second pony, Tls. 25; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; non-starters or winners of a race at this meeting 7 lbs. extra; entrance, Tls. 5. Three-quarters of a mile.

Thorn Rose	1
Sandstorm	2
Hermes	3

Time, 1 min. 32 2-5ths sec.

The SHANGHAI DERBY; a sweepstakes of Tls. 15 each, with Tls. 250 added; for China ponies, being *bond fide* griffins at date of entry; first pony to receive 75 per cent., second pony 15 per cent., third pony 10 per cent.; weight for inches as per scale. One mile and a half.

Interrogation	1
Rio Grande	2
Merrylegs	3

Dead heat.

Time, 3 min. 14 4-5ths sec.

The LADIES' PURSE; value, Tls. 100; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; ponies that have started at this Meeting and not won a Race allowed 7 lbs.; entrance, Tls. 5. One mile and a quarter.

Charger	1
The Blotter	2
Blitz	3

Time 2 min. 45 2-5ths sec.

The RACE CLUB CUP; value, Tls. 150; second pony Tls. 50; for China ponies; 5 lbs. allowed to any pony that has never won a race of one mile and a half or over; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. Two miles.

Sinbad	1
Canopus	2
The Drummer	3

Time, 4 min. 24 1-5th sec.

The CONCORDIA CUP; presented by the Club Concordia; value Tls. 300. added to a sweepstakes of Tls. 5 each; second pony to receive 40 per cent., and the third pony 10 per cent.

of the stakes; for China ponies, *bond fide* griffins at date of entry; weight for inches as per scale; winner of the Derby 7 lbs. extra. One mile and a half.

Loyalty	1
Altair	2
Otani	3

Time, 3 min. 14 1-5th sec.

The MONGOLIAN CUP; a sweepstakes of Tls. 5 each; for subscription griffins of this meeting; first pony to receive 70 per cent.; second pony 20 per cent.; third pony 10 per cent.; winners of one race 5 lbs. extra, two races 10 lbs. extra; weight for inches as per scale. One mile and a quarter.

Pickle	1
Heidsieck	2
Sunrise	3

Time, 2 min. 45 sec.

The SPRING CUP; value, Tls. 125; second pony Tls. 50; for China ponies that have started and never won a race; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. One mile.

Rose de France	1
Briefless	2
Emerald	3

Time, 2 min. 7 sec.

The SHANGHAI STAKES; a forced entry of Tls. 5' with Tls. 100 added; for all ponies otherwise entered at this Meeting, optional for subscription griffins entered only in subscription griffin races; first pony to receive 70 per cent., second pony 20 per cent., third pony 10 per cent. Weight for inches as per scale. One mile and a half.

Dot	1
The Broker	2
Shannon	3

Time, 3 mins. 17 3-5th sec.

The SCURRY STAKE; a sweepstakes of Tls. 5 each, to be divided between the first, second and third ponies in the proportion of 50, 30 and 20 per cent., with Tls. 100 added to the winner; for *bond fide* griffins at date of entry; weight for inches as per scale; winners 7 lbs. extra. Three-quarters of a mile.

Standard Rose	1
Hope	2
Sandpiper	3

Time, 1 min. 32 sec.

The JESSFIELD CUP; value, Tls. 150; second pony, Tls. 50; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; non-winners at this meeting allowed 5 lbs.; entrance, Tls. 5. One mile.

Merlin	1
Sandstorm	2
The Outcast	3

Time, 2 mins. 8 1-5th sec.

THIRD DAY, THURSDAY, 4TH MAY.

The GREAT NORTHERN PLATE; value, Tls. 125; second pony, Tls. 25; for ponies that have run at this meeting; weight for inches as per scale; winner of one race at this meeting, 7 lbs. extra; two or more races, 10 lbs. extra; entrance, Tls. 5. Seven furlongs.

Beachnut	1
Sandstorm	2
Hermes	3

Time 1 min. 49 1-5 sec.

The MASONIC CLUB CHALLENGE CUP; value, Tls. 350; presented by the members of the Masonic Club; for China ponies, being *bond fide* griffins at date of entry; to be won on two consecutive meetings, or three times in all, by ponies, the *bond fide* property of the same owner or owners; entrance, Tls. 10; 70 per cent to the first pony, 20 per cent to the second pony, and 10 per cent. to third pony until the cup is finally won, when the second pony will receive 75 per cent., and the third pony 25 per cent. of the entrance fees; weight for inches as per scale. One mile and a quarter.

Altair	1
Thorn Rose	2
Tiber	3

Time, 2 mins. 42 2-5 sec.

The SHANTUNG STAKES; a forced entry of Tls. 5; for subscription griffins entered at this meeting; first pony to receive 70 per cent., second pony 20 per cent., third pony 10 per cent.; weight for inches as per scale; unplaced ponies allowed 5 lbs. One mile.

Otani	1
Dinna Forget	2
Pickle	3

Time, 2 min. 12 4-5 sec.

The PARI-MUTUEL CUP; value, Tls. 100, added to a sweepstakes of Tls. 5 each; second pony to receive 30 per cent. and the third pony 10 per cent. of the stakes; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; griffins at date of entry allowed 7lbs; a penalty of 7lbs; for non-starters and winners at this meeting. One mile and a half.

Scotsman	1
Bio Grande	2
Standard Rose	†
Canopus	†

† Dead heat.

Time, 3 min. 19 secs.

The YANGTZE STAKES; value, Tls. 150, second pony, Tls. 50; for China ponies that have run at this meeting; weight for inches as per scale; non-winners at this meeting allowed 10lbs; entrance Tls. 5. Two miles.

Corbie	1
Sinbad	2
Impact	3

Time, 4 mins. 23 3-5th secs.

The MANCHU STAKES; value, Tls. 150; second pony, Tls. 50; for China ponies, *bond fide* griffins at date of entry, that have run and not won a race; weight for inches as per scale; entrance Tls. 5. One mile and a quarter.

The Downcast	1
Ratlin	2
Argyle	3

Time, 2 min. 42 secs.

The CONSOLATION CUP; value, Tls. 150; second pony, Tls. 50; third pony, Tls. 25; for ponies that have run at this meeting and not won a race; weight for inches as per scale; entrance Tls. 5. Once round.

The Outcast	1
Briefless	2
Sandstorm	3

Time, 2 min. 37 4-5 sec.

The CHAMPION SWEEPSTAKES; value, Tls. 350; second pony, Tls. 100; third pony, Tls. 50; a forced entry for and open only to winners at this meeting; optional for the winners of subscription griffin races; weight for inches as per scale. Each pony entered to pay five per cent. of the value of the stakes and prizes won. One mile and a quarter.

Loyalty	1
Callisto	2
Beachnut	3

Time 2 min. 37 secs.

THE STEAMERSHIP DEAL AT SINGAPORE.

ANOTHER VIEW.

"The Moralist" writes in the *Straits Times* as follows:—

I find that one or two people, chiefly very young men, are complaining bitterly that certain Englishmen have sold certain steamers to certain Germans. My young friends are so bitter about the matter that I presume it must be ascribed in part to the excessive enthusiasm of youth. The sellers, substantially, were the Holts of Liverpool; and if the Holts of Liverpool do not know when to keep a steamship and when to sell a steamship, I doubt whether anyone knows. The Holts have made a very large fortune, chiefly by running steamships from Britain to China with various intermediate ports of call. In conjunction with their Singapore agent, who was then Mr. Bogaardt, the Holts devised and aided to establish certain local lines from Singapore to neighbouring ports, and if they now see reason to withdraw from these lines I take it that the reason is a sound commercial reason. For some similar reason the Holts, after many years trial, gave up the passenger traffic between Britain and the East and if they now give up the freight traffic between Singapore, Siam, and Borneo, I take it either the traffic is not very remunerative or that the buyers of the steamers have paid a substantial price for them.

No doubt it may be disappointing to the young and patriotic heart to find steamships passing from the British to the German flag. But I do not know that the Empire of Great Britain is going to collapse because certain shrewd

shipowners of Liverpool find it worth their while to sell certain steamers to persons of a nationality other than English. Further, I may point out that the habit of buying adventures in foreign countries is so characteristic of British enterprise that it is laughable and childish that any Englishman should wail when an enterprising foreigner tries the same game.

H. G. M. S. "ILLIS."

Penang, 25th April.

A visit to H.G.M.S. *Illis*, yesterday afternoon, fully confirmed the good opinion which had been formed of that vessel. Commander Lans, in spite of his many engagements on shore, was good enough to remain on board, receive his visitors, and himself conduct them over the *Illis*. He explained that the vessel has been constructed more especially for moving up and down the estuaries, creeks, and largish rivers in China. No armour has been used for her protection, but the 3 in. quick-firing and maxim guns, the latter capable of firing 120 rounds in a minute, are sufficient evidence of her power to attack. In the commander's state-room are found several objects of interest, among which are photographs of Emperor Wilhelm and Prince Henry, and of the captain of the *Illis*, who sank with her; a picture of the old *Illis* which went down in a typhoon off the coast of China, captain, officers, and men standing on deck and saluting the flag as their vessel sank; a silver yen found by the divers among the wreckage and not yet seized by the colonial police; a cocktail goblet presented by the former captain of the ill-fated *Illis*; a telegram despatched in farewell by the Emperor to Commander Lans, and the original of the gracious message in the Emperor's own handwriting. An inspection of the ship made the visitors think they were on board a British war-ship, which may be taken as the greatest compliment payable to her commander, officers, and crew. She is described as a splendid sea-boat and rightly so, seeing how she behaved during the four days when steaming in the Bay of Biscay against the fearful hurricane of last February. Eventually, she put back for coal to Falmouth, where her commander was congratulated at having never been in the storm at all, the other twenty odd steamers and ships as they came into port looking fearfully knocked about by wind and water. It is no question for doubt that the *Illis*, which is about double the size of the old *Illis*, will be found a most serviceable addition to that portion of the navy of Germany now under the command of Prince Henry.

As announced yesterday, the date of departure had not been fixed when the article was written, but in the afternoon a telegram was received from the Prince ordering Commander Lans to proceed on his way to Kiaochau. The vessel will therefore sail this afternoon for Singapore, where she will coal, and the commander will deliver letters to the Princess, who is a passenger by the German mail which leaves the southern port about the 1st of May.

It may be added that Commander Lans poked quite enthusiastically of the beauties of Penang and her Hill. The work on Sunday seems to have been harder than that described in yesterday's issue, for in place of mounting the Hill leisurely for tiffin at the Crag Hotel, the party of officers and their friends, who had had a hard time of it the previous night, reached the foot of the Hill by 7 a.m. and were on the top at breakfast time. This was the meal taken at the Crag Hotel, but tiffin was prepared at Lomond, where Mr. and Mrs. Sietcken received their guests in the middle of the day.

The visit of the *Illis* will probably be the precursor of many visits by vessels of the Emperor Wilhelm's navy, and Penang will be happy to see them at any time and as often as they choose to come.—*Penang Gazette*.

HONGKONG.

Mr. J. J. Keswick has joined the Board of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank vice Mr. J. J. Bell-Irving.

The return of the number of cases of communicable diseases notified as occurring during the week ended the 29th April is as follows:—Bubonic plague, 28 cases, 34 deaths; diphtheria, 1 case; smallpox, 2 cases, 1 death.

[We are informed by Messrs. Lütgens, Binstermann & Co., General Agents of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited, that telegrams have been received stating that crushing has been started with ten stamps on ore from the Bank of England shaft.

Mr. W. H. T. Davis, local Manager of the Straits Insurance Co., Limited, informs us that he is in receipt of a telegram from the head office, Singapore, stating that the annual general meeting on the 3rd May passed off satisfactorily and the report and accounts were passed.

George Leitch, formerly lessee of the Stag Hotel, was charged at the Magistracy on 1st May with being drunk and refusing to pay vehicle hire. He was further charged by Sgt. McNab with behaving in a disorderly manner in the charge room of the Central Police Station. The defendant was fined for the first offence \$1 and 50 cents compensation to the ricksha coolie, and for the second offence \$5 or 14 days hard labour.

The 28th April was the birthday of the Viceroy of Canton, and the civil and military mandarins went to offer their congratulations and make their kowtow to him; but His Excellency ordered the east and the west gates of his yamen to be closed and locked and refused to see any one, and, to show his purity and uprightness, he is said to have declined all the presents sent by the small and big mandarins.

It is reported that the steamer *Arratoon Apar*, 1,392 tons Reg., built in 1873 for the Hongkong-Calcutta trade, was recently bought as old iron by a Chinese Syndicate for \$36,000. They are now so satisfied with her condition that they have decided to put her in the Old Dock, where some slight alterations and general repairs will be executed, after which she will be engaged South in the coal trade.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Ng Kwang, the scavenging contractor, appeared before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith on the 28th April in consequence of some of his men having been found turning rubbish into a drain. Mr. Mounsey, who represented him, said his client admitted the offence. He had a number of foremen under him, and it was impossible for him to see what all of them did. He could only ask his worship to deal leniently.—Mr. Smith: What steps has he taken with regard to the foremen who did this?—Mr. Mounsey: His intention is to get rid of him. It is the only thing he could do.—Mr. Smith: I should have preferred deeds to intention. I should have preferred to have heard he had dismissed him.—Mr. Mounsey: I am not in a position to say that. I can only say that I advised him to dismiss him. Whether he has done so or not I cannot say.—A fine of £3 was imposed.

Several sales of Crown land have been effected during the week. On Monday, Garden Lot No. 5, which is situated at Wanchai and comprises 3,700 square feet, was sold to Mr. Allen (of the Naval Yard) for \$395, which is \$25 above the upset price; annual rent \$32. On Tuesday, Inland Lot No. 1,523, which is situated about Pokfulam Conduit and contains 20,000 square feet, was bought by Mr. A. Denison for \$2,425 (upset price \$2,400); annual rent \$138. A lot 25,000 square feet in the same locality was purchased by Dr. Bateson Wright for \$3,025 (\$25 above upset); annual rent \$172. On Wednesday, Hung-Hom Inland Lot No. 221, South of temple, and which contains 6,750 square feet, was bought by Mr. Chan Ying Chung for \$5,900 (upset price \$5,050); annual rent \$100.

"I was not drunk, but a lot of little boys were running about the street after me," is what a sailor named Albert Usher observed to Mr. T. Sercombe Smith at the Magistracy on Wednesday morning, when asked what he had to say to a charge of being drunk and creating a disturbance in Queen's Road the previous evening.—His Worship: They would not have followed you about if you had not been drunk.—Defendant: They kept following me and this made me very angry. I caught one of the boys and boxed his ears, and a policeman came and handled me pretty roughly and I was taken to the Police Station.—His Worship: It is clearly proved against you that you were drunk, and that whilst you were drunk you were acting in a disorderly manner, running the Chinese about and going into a Chinese shop and lying down. You will be fined \$5, or seven days.

At the Magistracy on the 28th April a man named H. E. Faulkner was charged with vagrancy. He said he had no employment and no money. He came from Calcutta, arriving here on the 27th of Feb., 1895. He had been in the colony ever since. He was sick when he came to Hongkong, and he came here for the benefit of his health. He was making rapid progress towards recovery.—His Worship: What have you been doing all this time?—Defendant: I have been idle all this time.—His Worship: What do you propose to do with yourself in the future?—Defendant: I shall see if I cannot find something to do.—His Worship: Do you want to stay in Hongkong or go back to India?—Defendant: Not at present. I should not like to leave Hongkong until I am thoroughly cured.—His Worship: Well, then, I declare you a vagrant, and order you to the house of detention.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 27th April.—Macao Cingous.—The market for New Season's First Crop New makes has been opened by small purchases at Tls. 2-3 per picul over last year's rates. The crop may be described at a good average one as regards quality, but supplies have been very meagre owing to a strong demand for the Pouchong houses, who can evidently pay better prices than foreign shippers. Shipments to London to date amount only to 47,565 lbs. (which have gone for ward in seven steamers, and the outgoing mail will take some 2,000 boxes, making the total about the same as last year. Prices run from Tls. 14-23 per picul, the bulk costing Tls. 20 and over. The S. S. *Guthrie* leaving on the 2nd prox for Sydney, will probably take an insignificant quantity, and small shipments are going forward to the Continent.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1898-99 lbs.	1897-98 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	12,283,930	15,29,448
Foochow	12,682,534	12,160,008
Amoy	688,318	683,651
Canton	1,105,660	5,993,839
	30,760,442	34,132,646

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99 lbs.	1897-98 lbs.
Shanghai	16,621,547	20,836,001
Amoy	15,036,413	15,861,506
Foochow	9,178,280	7,740,343
	40,836,240	43,47,454

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1898-99 lbs.	1897-98 lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	22,783,272	19,462,293

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99 lbs.	1897-98 lbs.
Yokohama	25,944,170	26,826,182
Kobe	13,948,634	16,732,118
	39,890,804	43,558,300

SILK.

SHA GHAI, 29th April.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Son's Circular)—The Home markets are firm, Blue Elephants are quoted in London at 12/3, and Gold Killings have risen in Lyons to Fcs. 32.75. Raw Silk.—The sharp advance in Exchange during the past week has put a stop to the large business that has been taking place for some time past in new season silk; still full 1,000 bales have been taken, and Gold Killings were done at Tls. 535. Total contracts for the new season to date we estimate now to be some 22,000 bales, of these 1,750/2,000 bales are Steam Filatures, 5,500/6,000 bales Hand Filatures, and 14,000 Teatiles, Kahings, etc. Yellow Silk.—Market quiet, arrivals on a fair scale. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, April 22nd to 29th are: 826 bales White, 219 bales Yellow and 354 bales Wild Silk. Re-reels and Hand Filatures.—Some further contracts have been made for America and Lyons at prices which show an advance of some Tls. 10/15. Steam Filatures.—Some further business is reported on the basis

of Tls. 850 for good Market Chop No. 1, 11/13 dernier. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 4,131 bales to France, 2,845 bales to America, and 153 bales to London. Wild Silk.—Some 50 bales have changed hands. Waste Silk.—Nothing doing. Stocks are almost exhausted. We append quotations in Tels only, this week, as Exchange has varied so.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1898-99 bales.	1897-98 bales.
Shanghai	62,946	49,522
Canton	31,024	22,606
Yokohama	19,041	18,140
	113,011	90,268

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1898-99 bales.	1897-98 bales.
Shanghai	10,700	12,403
Canton	10,176	11,463
Yokohama	28,796	32,279
	49,672	56,145

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 5th May.—The market is rather firmer again. Quotations for Formosa are \$69.00 to \$69.50. Sales 18 piculs.

SUGAR

HONGKONG, 5th May.—The market continues weak and prices shown a further fall. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$7.78 to \$7.81 per picul.
do. " 2, White	7.24 to 7.27 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	5.10 to 5.13 "
do. " 2, Brown	4.97 to 5.00 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	7.65 to 7.70 "
do. " 1, White	7.10 to 7.15 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown	4.95 to 5.00 "
do. " 2, Brown	4.80 to 4.85 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	11.05 to 11.10 "
Shekloong	9.90 to 9.95 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Prometheus*, sailed on the 6th April. For London:—1 case silks, 2 cases paper, 14 Chinaware, 3 cases curios, 40 cases black-woodware, 18 cases bristles, 10 cases essential oil, 50 cases fans, 30 cases cigars, 2 cases and 95 bales feathers, 20 bales canes, 346 bales waste silk, 100 bales bambooware, 1,081 bales hemp, 24 chests indigo, 335 bags gum, 100 rolls matting, 8 baskets horn tips, 10 cases preserves, and 7 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—200 bales waste silk. For London and/or Glasgow:—100 cases ginger. For London and/or Antwerp and/or Hamburg:—3 cases bristles. For Manchester:—206 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—248 bales hemp and 1 case cigars. For Hamburg:—50 bales rattan shavings and 5 bales canes. For Amsterdam:—7 bales feathers. For Bremen:—133 rolls mats.

Per P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, sailed on the 15th April. For London:—54 packages tea from Foochow, 40 bales raw silk, 9 cases silk piece goods, 2 cases feathers, 3 cases pers. effects, 2 packages cigars, 482 boxes tea (10,122 lbs. Congon), and 79 boxes tea (2,860 lbs. Sc. Or. Pekoe). For France:—392 bales raw silk, 2 cases silk piece goods, 2 cases feathers, and 1 case ilang ilang essence from Manila.

Per P. & O. steamer *Canton*, sailed on the 20th April. For London:—1,100 bales hemp, 2 cases essence of ilang ilang, and 16 cases M. O. P. shell from Manila, 6 chests tea and 14 boxes longan from Foochow, 223 rolls mats, 3 cases feathers, 10 cases effects 9 cases curios, 5 cases furniture, 2 boxes sundries, and 602 boxes tea (12,642 lbs.).

OPIUM.

Ho Kong, 5th May.—Bengal.—There has been a very considerable decline in prices owing to rates in Calcutta having declined. A small amount of business has been put through during the past week. New Patna is now quoted \$747, Old Patna \$757, New Banares \$742, and Old Banares \$757.

Malwa.—Rates have declined and business has been rather slack, only about 120 chests having been sold after the arrival of the last English mail. Latest quotations are.

New Malwa \$700 with all'ce from 1 1/2 to 3 catty.	
Old (2 yrs.) \$720	0 to 1
" (3 ") \$740	0 to 2 1/2
" (4 ") \$770	3 to 1 1/2
" (7/8 ") \$810	1 to 2

Persian.—There has only been a demand for the superior quality of Paper-tied opium; other qualities are at present without sales. Oily is quoted \$65 and Paper-tied \$650 to \$760 per chest. To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	457 chests.
Old Patna	1,396
New Banares	190
Old Banares	76
Malwa	700
Persian	1,240

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BANARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1899.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
April 29	790	810	800	825	700	
April 30	787 1/2	810	800	825	700	
May	785	810	792 1/2	825	700	
May 2	784	765	750	810	700	
May 3	750	760	745	810	700	
May 4	750	760	745	760	700	
May 5	747 1/2	757 1/2	74 1/2	757 1/2	700	720/740/750/810

RICE.

HONGKONG, 5th May.—The market is dull and prices continue to fall. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.20 to 2.25
" Round, good quality	2.65 to 2.70
" Long	2.90 to 2.95
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.95 to 3.00
" Garden, No. 1	3.10 to 3.15
" White	3.60 to 3.65
" Fine Cargo	3.80 to 3.85

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 5th May.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*:—25 bales No. 8 at \$72, 900 bales No. 10 at \$64 to \$66, 550 bales No. 12 at \$72 to \$92, 350 bales No. 16 at \$67 to \$92, 350 bales No. 20 at \$76 to \$81. *Grey Shirtings*:—250 pieces 10 lbs. Dragon at \$3.87 1/2, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Palm Chop at \$4.50 pieces 10 lbs. C. Way at \$4, 3,000 pieces 10 lbs. C. Way at \$4.50 pieces 10 lbs. Stag at \$4. *White Shirtings*:—1,000 pieces at \$2.25, 1,500 pieces 3 Stars at \$5, 250 pieces C at \$5.60. *T. Cloths*:—60 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.75, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.75. *White Irishes*:—250 pieces folds Gold Stag at \$4.85, 250 pieces folds Gold Stag at \$4.85, 250 pieces folds Gold Horse at \$4.55, 250 pieces folds Gold Stag at \$4.85, *Bengal Cotton*:—31 bales at \$16, 51 bales at \$15.40, 50 bales at \$15.75, 50 bales at \$16.15 bales 55 lbs. at \$15.90. *P. No. 40 Yarn*:—100 bales Red Dragon at \$127.

COTTON YARN:—per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s. 60.00 to 91.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24. 101.00 to 108.00
" 22 to 24. 106.00 to 110.00
" 28 to 32. 114.00 to 120.00
" 38 to 42. 125.00 to 131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS:—per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs. 1.70 to 1.80
7lbs. 1.92 to 2.00
8 1/2 lbs. 2.35 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs. 3.25 to 4.05
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 " 2.70 to 3.35
64 to 66 " 3.50 to 4.35
Fine " 4.35 to 7.05
Book-folds. 3.75 to 5.65
Victoria Lawns—12 yards 0.66 to 1.35
T. Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y. 1.52 to 1.72
7lbs. (32 ") " 1.85 to 2.10
6lbs. (32 ") Mex. 1.62 to 1.82
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.10 to 2.75
8 to 8 1/2 oz. (36 in.) 2.35 to 3.20
Drills, English—40 yds. 14 to 16lbs 3.65 to 6.35

FANCY COTTONS:—
Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 8lbs. 1.60 to 4.75
Brocades—Dyed 3.00 to —
Damasks 0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.19 to 0.40
Velveteens—18 in. 0.17 to 0.18
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.25 to 1.25
WOOLLENS:—per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.60 to 1.50
German " " to —
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.00 to 2.25

Long Ells—Scarlet	per piece	6.25 to 9.50
Assorted	6.85 to 9.80	
Camlets—Assorted	12.00 to 32.00	
Lastings—30 yds., 81 inches, Assorted	9.00 to 20.00	
Orleans—Plain	7.50 to 9.00	
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	per pair	3.50 to 14.00
METALS—	per picul	
Iron—Nail Rod	4.25 to —	
Square, Flat Round Bar ...	4.30 to —	
Swedish Bar	6.00 to —	
Small Round Rod	4.75 to —	
Hoop 4 to 1 1/2 in.	5.75 to —	
Wire 15/25	9.00 to —	
Old Wire Rope	2.50 to —	
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ...	9.00 to —	
Australian	9.00 to —	
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.	40.00 to —	
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.	40.00 to —	
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.	40.00 to —	
Composition Nails	75.00 to —	
Japan Copper, Slabs	88.00 to —	
Tiles	87.00 to —	
Tin-Plates	per box.	6.25 to —
Steel 1/2 to 1	per cwt. case	5.75 to —
SUNDRIES—	per picul	
Quicksilver	143.50 to —	
Window Glass	per box	5.35 to —
Kerosene Oil	per 10-gal. case	2.06 to —

SHANGHAI, 29th April.—(From Messrs.—Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.)—The business of the past week has been small, particularly where English makes are concerned, but the reason for this dullness must not be assigned to any apathy on the part of Chinese buyers as they have, in sympathy with Importers, been much upset by the sudden and pronounced advance in Exchange. No one seems to have been on the outlook or prepared for this advance and many different reasons are given for it, but there can be little doubt that the recent large purchases of Raw Silk, chiefly for forward delivery, have had much effect on local rates. Whether this had much effect on outside markets it is difficult to say. Sales during the period under review have again been confined largely to American goods, and several thousands of bales of Drills and Sheetings have been sold for arrival next autumn, chiefly on a sterling basis. It is difficult to state any particulars of the sales, but it is pretty certain a good quantity has been done, as recent advices from New York report a large business (in some quarters estimated at about 30,000 bales) for shipment during July, August and September at very full rates. Under these circumstances it can hardly be wondered at that the market is quoted very firm. The market for English goods, as stated above, dull as far as actual sales are concerned, but still there is a good general feeling and with a more secure impression about the course of Exchange ruling in the near future a large business might have been done. As it is the Tientsin market is much better than it has been for some time, although dealers here are trying to make it appear lower than it actually is, while reports from Newchwang are considered very favourable. There is nothing new to write about the Ningpo and River Port markets, the prospects for the coming season appearing to be as favourable as ever.

METALS, 1st May.—(From Messrs Alex. Biefield & Co.'s Report) 1st May.—Not much been done during the past week, and what was done was at a low figure. The iron disposed of cannot be replaced at the price sold, owing to the Home quotations being 3s. higher. 400 tons of London Shoes were sold at 82s. 6d. to 83s. 6d. and 350 tons of Cart Tyres were sold at 106s. The market is very quiet locally, and the natives are naturally endeavouring to dispose of their holdings. They are not ordering any more as the stock does not require replenishing for at least two or three months. In Australian lead 200 tons have been sold at £15, and locally in spot cargo business has been at Tls. 7 to Tls. 7.10 per picul.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 5th May.

ON LONDON:—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2

On PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.48
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.51 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.01 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	48
Credits, 60 days' sight	49
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	146 1/2
Bank, on demand	147
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	146 1/2
Bank, on demand	147
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	4 1/2 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	1 1/2 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.61
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	52.75

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 5th May.—The market has ruled somewhat inactive during the week and with the exception of rises and a fair business in Banks and Docks and a stiffer feeling in rates generally there are no special features to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—With a further improvement in the London rate to £60 and a fair local demand the rate has risen steadily during the week and sales have been effected at 272, 274, 275, 278, 280, and 2-1 per cent. prem. On time a few shares changed hands at 285 per cent. prem. for July, and at 290 for August. The market closes steady at 281 per cent. prem. Nationals have ruled quiet with small sales at \$22, closing with sellers at that rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have found small buyers at \$61 1/2. Unions continue on offer at \$230 and Cantons at \$142 1/2. In the Northern Insurances and Straits there is no local business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have been negotiated in large lots at \$296 and \$297, closing with buyers at \$297 1/2. China Fires could be placed in small lots at \$81.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have remained weak with little or no business, but at time of closing are enquired for at \$29. Indo-Chinas have been negotiated in large lots at \$69 1/2 and \$69, and at equivalent rates for June and July, market closing with sellers at latter rate. Douglases remain unchanged and with business at \$55 1/2, closing with buyers at \$55 and sellers at \$56. China Manilas and China Mutuals unchanged and with no sales to report.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been negotiated at \$169 cash and at \$171 for 31st instant. Luzons have changed hands at \$47, \$49, and \$50, closing at \$48.

MINING.—Punjoms have further improved to \$7.75 with but few sales, shares being difficult to get even at the advanced rate. Charbonnages have advanced to \$175 without bringing any shares on the market, whilst sales are reported from Paris at the equivalent of \$190. Queen Mines have changed hands to a fair extent at 50 cents, but more shares are obtainable at the rate. Jelebus have remained steady at \$10 with small sales, closing with sellers. Raubs have ruled very steady with small sales and buyers at \$58. Olvers continue quiet and more or less out of the market. Great Easterns, with expected news of a second crushing, have been enquired for and changed hands at \$3.65, \$3.75, and \$4, closing at \$4.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks after small sales at 328 per cent. prem. quickly jumped without sales at intermediate rates to \$35 and afterwards to \$40 with sales at those rates and at \$43 for 31st instant, the market closing steady at \$40. Kowloon Wharves continue quiet and neglected with no sales at quotation. Wanchais have been in a small demand without bringing shares on the market. Amoy Docks are wanted at \$15.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have found buyers at \$80, \$80 1/2,

and \$81, closing steady at the latter rate. Hotels have been in pretty general demand at \$79, \$80, \$81 to \$85 without bringing out any shares and at time of closing an unsatisfied demand still exists. West Point has changed hands in small lots at \$28 and Humphreys at \$9 1/2, both closing steady at quotations. Kowloon Lands are enquired for at \$4, but no sales have been reported.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Star Ferries have changed hands at \$14 1/2. Green Islands at \$24 1/2. Watsons at \$15 and \$14 1/2, and China Providents at \$8.80. Fenwicks are enquired for at \$35, but no sales have been effected.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	281 p. ct. prem. =
China & Japan, ordy.	24	21
Do. deferred	21	25.5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	28	\$22, sellers
Foun. Shares	21	22
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	10	\$10 1/2, sellers
China Prox. L. & M.	10	\$9.7, sellers
China Sugar	100	\$169, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 70, buyers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 70
Soychee	Tls. 50	Tls. 350
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 55
Hongkong	\$100	\$4 1/2, sellers
Dairy Farm	16	3 1/2, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	25	35, buyers
Green Island Cement	10	\$24 1/2, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	150	31
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$128, buyers
Hongkong Electric	10	\$11.75, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	100	\$142 1/2
Hongkong Hotel	50	85, buyers
Hongkong Ice	25	\$112
H. & K. Wharf & G.	50	\$86 1/2
Hongkong Rope	50	170
H. & W. Dock	125	\$40, p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		
Canton	50	\$142 1/2, sellers
China Fire	20	\$81 1/2, sellers
China Traders'	25	61 1/2, sales
Hongkong Fire	50	\$297 1/2, buyers
North-China	25	Tls. 100
Straits	20	\$4 1/2, sellers
Union	50	\$230, sellers
Yangtze	60	\$114, ex div.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	50	\$81, buyers
Humphreys Estate	10	10 1/2, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	30	\$24, buyers
West Point Building	40	\$28, sellers
Luzon Sugar	100	\$48, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$175, buyers
Gt. Estn. & O'donian	5	\$4 1/2
Jelebu	5	10
Queens Mines Ltd.	25c.	50 cts., sellers
Liver's Mines, A.	5	\$6, sellers
Do. B.	18	\$4 1/2, buyers
Punjom	16	7 1/2, sellers
Do. Preference	1	\$1.60, sales
Raubs	15s. 10d.	\$18, buyers
New Amoy Dock	6 1/2	\$15, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	50	\$75, buyers
China Mutual Pref.	210	\$9, 15s., buyers
Do. Ordinary	210	\$24, 10s., buyers
Do. Do.	25	\$2, 10s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	50	\$55 1/2, sales & sellers
H. Canton and M.	15	29, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$69, sellers
Star Ferry	7 1/2	\$14, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	5	\$5, sellers
Do.	18	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	12	\$1.50, buyers
Do.	10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse	37 1/2	\$89, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	10	\$15, sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 1st May.—(From Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—The business of the week has been fairly brisk. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf shares have continued in demand for cash and time sales, while Mill stocks are recovering from last week's depression. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Early in the week a sale of 285 per cent. prem. took place; later the rate rose to 285 per cent. prem. cash sales at Hongkong at 270 per cent. prem. were reported on the 27th and at Shanghai a sale was put through at the same figure on the 29th, while the market closes at this rate. Fire

Insurance.—China Fires changed hands at \$82. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas were done at Tls. 51.75 for 31st May on the 25th April, at Tls. 51 and Tls. 51.50 for 30th April on the 26th April. Shares are offering at a point or two higher for cash. China Mutuals, Preference shares, changed hands at Tls. 72, and the Ordinarys at Tls. 50. Sugars.—A small lot of Petaks were sold at Tls. 47.50 and are wanted. Mining.—Raub was sold at \$57 to Hongkong. Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Co., Ltd.—The Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for 1898 have been published. The meeting of Shareholders is to take place on the 27th inst. There is a net loss of Tls. 10,996.68 on the year's working. This increases the balances of debit of Profit and Loss to Tls. 165,500.30. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in Boyd & Co. were taken up at Tls. 200. S. C. Farham & Co.—Early in the week shares were quoted at Tls. 182.50, later the market rose to Tls. 185, Tls. 187 and Tls. 187.50 cash, and Tls. 190 for June. Engineering & Dock shares were put through at Tls. 90 cash and Tls. 95 for August. Business in Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares has been brisk, several cash sales at Tls. 165 are reported, and the following time sales: Tls. 170 and Tls. 172.50 for June, Tls. 175 for July, Tls. 175 and 177.50 for August and Tls. 182.50 for November, while two or three settlements at Tls. 200 for March next have been put through. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks changed hands at 325 per cent. prem. and later at 328 per cent. premium, shares being sold to Hongkong in both cases. Lands and Building stocks have been at a standstill. Industrial.—Ewo Cotton Mills changed hands at Tls. 65 and Tls. 70 and are wanted. A first call of Tls. 25 per share on 5,000 shares new issue of this Company was made on 29th April. Internationals found sellers at Tls. 65; a rapid rise later brought the market up to Tls. 75. Laou-kung-mow changed hands at Tls. 70. Soy Chees sold at Tls. 350 and are offering. China Flour Mills were dealt in at Tls. 40 and Feather Cleaning Co. shares are offering. Tug and Cargo boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were done at Tls. 230. Miscellaneous.—Gas Company shares fetched Tls. 190. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco Company shares were quoted at Tls. 80 Old at the beginning of the week, they fetched Tls. 82.50 later, and the market closed with sales at Tls. 85 and Tls. 90 cash. New shares found sellers at Tls. 65 Sumatra Tobacco shares were dealt in at Tls. 62. Llewellyns sold for \$61, Hall & Holtz at \$36, and Central Stores at \$11, with sellers offering. The American Cigarette Co.—A new issue of 1,500 shares of Tls. 50 each, paid up in full, has been made and nearly all have been taken up. It is intended to apply this increase of the capital (Tls. 75,000) to improvements in machinery and increase of stock.

Quotations are:—

BANKS.

Hongkong and Shanghai.—\$462.50.
Bank of China and Japan, defd.—210.0.
Do. ordinary.—25.50.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$20.00.

COTTON MILLS.

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 70.00.
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—55.00.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 75.00.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ltd.—Tls. 70.00.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 350.00.

DOCKS, WHARVES, &c.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 200.00.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Company.—\$87.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$535.0.
S. C. Farham & Co.—Tls. 187.50.
Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 90.0.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 165.00.

INSURANCES.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$140.00.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$82.00.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$62.00.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$295.00.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 180.00.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$4.00.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$230.
Yangtze Insurance Assn., Ltd.—\$120.

LANDS.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$78.00.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$9.00.
Shanghai Land Invest Co., (fully pd.)—Tls. 82.50.

MINING.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$6.25.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$1.75.
Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.—\$57.00.
Sheridan Consolidated Co.—Tls. 4.00.

SHIPPING.

China Mutual preference.—Tls. 72.00.
Do. ordinary, 25 paid.—Tls. 30.00.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 135.00.

Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$57.00.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao.—\$30.00.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 51.00.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 150.00.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 230.00.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 75.00.

SUGAR.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$170.00.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$47.00.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 47.50.

MISCELLANEOUS.

American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 60.00.
Central Stores, Ltd.—\$11.00.
China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 40.00.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$36.00.
Llewellyn & Co., J., Limited.—\$61.00.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 40.00.
Shanghai Feather Cleaning Co.—Tls. 400.00.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 190.00.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 62.50.
Shanghai Ice, Cold Storage, & Refrigeration Co., Ltd.—Tls. 29.00.
Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 98.00.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 90.00.
Do. New Issue.—Tls. 65.00.
Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 25.00.
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 62.00.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 100.00.
Watson Co., A. S., Limited.—\$14.00.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 1st May (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—It is usual at this time of year to generally revise homeward rates, as a rule with an upward tendency, at least as far as tea is concerned, but at present there is no indication of any imminent change. New York business has continued to occupy the main attention of shippers, and steamers via Suez for this direction have met with substantial support. Coastwise.—A steady business continues at quotations from Newchwang for southern ports, but from Wuhu there is but little improvement to record. Japan coal rates are firm at \$2. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Königsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; Havre, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net. 35s. per ton of 20 cwt. net for above three ports. New York, by sail, 20s. New York via Pacific, 1 gold cent per lb. tea, 6 cents per lb. silk, \$10 per ton strawbraid. New York via Suez, 27s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 27s. 6d. for tea, all net. Boston, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea, all net. Philadelphia, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea, all net. Coast rates.—Mojito to Shanghai \$2 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$2 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe 25 sen; to Nagasaki 20 sen; to Swatow 35 cents; to Amoy 35 cent; to Whampoa 38 cents; to Canton 38 cents; Wuhu and Chinkiang to Canton 22 cents; to Amoy 20 cents; to Swatow 20 cents.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Coromandel (str.), Candia (str.), Orestee (str.), Sarpodon (str.), Glaucus (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—Preussen (str.).
FOR MARSEILLE.—Ernest Simons (str.).
FOR TRIESTE V. STRAITS, BOMBAY, ETC.—M. Bacquehen (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Sibiria (str.), Königsberg (str.), Heidelberg (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Doric (str.), Nippon Maru (str.), Queen Margaret, Thyra (str.), C. of Rio de Janeiro (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of Japan (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C., AND TACOMA.—Tacoma (str.).
FOR PORTLAND, O., Monmouthshire (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—Undaunted (str.), Vortigern (str.), Catania (str.), D. Rickmers (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIA.—Changsha (str.).
FOR STRAITS AND CALCUTTA.—Catherine Apear (str.).
FOR BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Yamaguchi Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

April—

ARRIVALS.

28, Guthrie, British str., from Kobe.
29, Kansu, British str., from Canton.
29, Produce, Norw. str., from Singapore.
29, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
29, Bingo Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
29, Loyal, German str., from Hongkong.
29, Phra Nang, British str., from Bangkok.
29, Charleston, Amr. cruiser, from Manila.
30, Else, German str., from Bangkok.
30, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
30, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
30, Ningpo, British str., from Swatow.
30, Paoting, British str., from Newchwang.
30, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., from Swatow.
30, Taksang, British str., from Tientsin.
30, Hupeh, British str., from Java.

May—

1, Catherine Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
1, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., from Chefoo.
1, Rattler, British gunboat, from Singapore.
1, Savoia, German str., from Kutchinotsu.
1, Chittagong, British str., from Saigon.
1, Siberia, German str., from Hamburg.
1, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
1, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
1, Liberal, Portuguese gunboat, from Macao.
1, Kumsang, British str., from Singapore.
1, Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.
1, Siam, British str., from Bangkok.
1, Algerine, British sloop, from Bangkok.
1, Preussen, German str., from Bremen.
1, Gloucester City, British str., from Saigon.
2, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
2, Amigo, German str., from Hongkong.
2, Ichang, British str., from Canton.
2, Breed, Norwegian str., from Singapore.
2, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
2, Keongwai, British str., from Bangkok.
2, Nanyang, German str., from Taiwanfoo.
2, Pronto, German str., from Amoy.
2, Prosper, Norw. str., from Newchwang.
2, Hainan, German str., from Chefoo.
3, Tacoma, British str., from Tacoma.
3, Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
3, Haiching, British str., from Tamsui.
3, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
3, Sullberg, German str., from Chefoo.
3, Tamba Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
3, Ningpo, British str., from Canton.
3, Saida, Austrian corvette, from Batavia.
4, Taiwan Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
4, Benlawers, British str., from Singapore.
4, Choyang, British str., from Canton.
4, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
4, Ceylon, British str., from London.
4, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
4, Germania, German str., from Saigon.
4, Wuhu, British str., from Wuhu.
4, Aurora, British cruiser from Singapore.
4, Catania, German str., from Amoy.
4, Centaur, British str., from Saigon.
4, Sumidagawa Maru, Jap. str., from Amoy.
4, G. C. Tobey, Amr. bark, from Tacoma.
4, Loksang, British str., from Tientsin.
5, Paoting, British str., from Canton.
5, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
5, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Shanghai.
5, Onsang, British str., from Kutchinotsu.
5, Taksang, British str., from Canton.
5, Hailong, British str., from Tamsui.
5, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
5, Sagami Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
5, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
5, P. C. C. Klao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
5, Whampoa, British str., from Swatow.

April—

DEPARTURES.

29, Ballarat, British str., for Europe.
29, Parramatta, British str., for Shanghai.
29, Progress, German str., for Tournon.
29, Heidelberg, German str., for Yokohama.
29, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
29, Tailee, German str., for Singapore.
29, Rosetta, British str., for Yokohama.
29, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., for K'notsu.
30, Maidsuru Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
30, Kansu, British str., for Shanghai.
30, Hailan, British str., for Swatow.
30, Fukui Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
30, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
30, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
30, Shini Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
30, Nerite, British str., for Saigon.

30, Loyal, German str., for Canton.
30, Taksang, British str., for Canton.

May—

- 1, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
- 1, Paoting, British str., for Canton.
- 1, Ningpo, British str., for Canton.
- 1, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Swatow.
- 1, Bingo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 1, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., for Canton.
- 1, Carlisle City, British str., for San Diego.
- 1, Diamante, British str., for Manila.
- 1, Hermione, British str., for practice.
- 2, Mongkut, British str., for Chefoo.
- 2, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
- 2, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
- 2, Irene, German cruiser, for Foochow.
- 2, China, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
- 2, Kutsang, British str., for Calcutta.
- 2, Taichow, British str., for Saigon.
- 2, Deuteros, German str., for Saigon.
- 2, Ichang, British str., for Taiwanfoo.
- 2, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 2, Simla, British ship, for Cebu.
- 2, Erik Rickmers, German sh., for Bangkok.
- 3, Preussen, German str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Hohenzollern, German str., for Y'hama.
- 3, Guthrie, British str., for Sydney.
- 3, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 3, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Swatow.
- 3, Prosper, Norwegian str., for Canton.
- 3, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 3, Kinai Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 3, Pronto, German str., for Swatow.
- 3, Sullberg, German str., for Canton.
- 3, Liberal, Portuguese g-bt., for Macao.
- 3, Humber, British storeship, for Wei-haiwei.
- 4, Chowtai, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Savoia, German str., for Hamburg.
- 4, Siberia, German str., for Yokohama.
- 4, Tamba Maru, Jap. str., for London.
- 5, Wuhu, British str., for Canton.
- 5, Ningpo, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Loyal, German str., for Hongay.
- 5, Kong Beng, British str., for Saigon.
- 5, Else, German str., for Hoihow.
- 5, Wongkoi, British str., for Bangkok.
- 5, Hue, French str., for Hoihow.
- 5, Yuen-sang, British str., for Manila.
- 5, Siam, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
- 5, Kinshiu Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Sanuki Maru*, from London, Ladies Lo (2), Masters Lo (2), Mr. Lo Tse Ying, Messrs. T. H. Glover, Phillip Mordant, Wei Lien, Mr. and Mrs. Noronha and family, Messrs. P. de Hees, K. de Hees, J. Cox, and Tadano.

Per *Parramatta*, from Hongkong from London, Dr. O'Neill, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Greig; from Gibraltar, Messrs. Rennick and A. Coville, Lieut. and Mrs. Oliveira, and Lieut. Almeda Carvello; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Greig, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, Messrs. J. Whittall, Armitage, and J. Coolidge; from Brindisi, Mr. E. Turkill; from Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Cama and child; from Calcutta, Mrs. and Miss Holbrook; from Colombo, Lieut. James, Messrs. McGillivray, Irwin, and J. Prentice; from Singapore, Mr. Woolfe, Major Hare, Mr. Hurry, Capt. Anderson, Major and Mrs. Whight, Mr. H. W. Andrews, Mrs. S. A. Horazki, Messrs. Lie Kong Tak, Z. Pau-Shain, Phore Sha Lone, and Serw Geok Chife. For Shanghai from London, Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. May and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson, Messrs. Ferguson and Plowman; from Marseilles, Messrs. H. King and Such; from Brindisi, Dr. and Mrs. Keely, Messrs. S. Penrose and Kennard; from Bombay, Captain Vibert. For Kobe from Port Said, Mrs. Croxton, and Miss Basper; from Singapore, Mrs. Pakenham. For Yokohama from London, Mr. Riley, Mr. and Mrs. W. Wallace, Mrs. Cameron, and Mrs. Mudge; from Marseilles, Messrs. Solez and Swyrd; from Ismailia, Messrs. J. Turnhall and Armstrong.

Per *Ningpo*, from Tientsin, Rev. and Mrs. Ashmore.

Per *Phra Nang*, from Bangkok, Harr F. Schwabbe.

Per *Loongmoon*, from Shanghai, Messrs. G. Housberry, R. Geipel Hansen, Christensen, Nissim, Savor, Hlich, and Amelung.

Per *Bingo Maru*, from Bombay, Mrs. M. Jewell, family and nurse, Mrs. Efford, child and nurse, and Major Yui, I.J.A.

Per *Savoia*, from Kuchinotzu, Mrs. Eekers and family, Mrs. Engers, Mr. Orita and Mr. Finckwick.

Per *Siberia*, from Singapore, Mr. A. Reuter, and Miss Günter.

Per *Catherine Apar*, from Calcutta, Mr. and Mrs. Munay and child, Mr. and Mrs. Ogbourne and child, Messrs. P. Newson, S. Haywood, C. Horsey, Capt. and Mrs. Campbell and child, Lieut. F. Mulliken, Miss Llewelyn, Sergt. and Mrs. Baker and three children, Sergt. Connolly, and 412 Indians.

Per *Choguang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. McGregor.

Per *Preussen*, from Bremen, Mr. A. S. Simpson, Dr. Krieg, Consul and Mrs. Valpicelli, Messrs. A. S. Trevor, R. P. Saunders, Curt Craemer, H. Abbot, Miss E. Prescott, Miss B. Henderson, Messrs. Bowley, J. R. Crook, Juliusberg, Mr. and Mrs. Reusch, Messrs. Kleiss, Foilmann, and Walter.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Mrs. Hunt, Miss Nicholson, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, Messrs. Camps, Snyder, Sauches Suburuchs, Adolfo Charguest, Chan Atai, A. Osorio, J. C. Shan- chey, Hillson, C. J. Davis, J. H. Simpson, Dettner, J. Clotet, S. Ferrer, E. Ribscock, L. Nicholls, Mr. and Mrs. Claremont, Garabaldi, Earmen, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. H. Wid- man, U. S. Johnston, F. Clausen, T. Hamaru, A. Nasip, B. Olsen, and Erlandsson.

Per *Tacoma*, from Tacoma, Mrs. Griggs and Mrs. Jones.

Per *Haiching*, from Tamsui, &c., Capt. Far- row, Messrs. Haeslop, Nakayama, Kagaware, and Sujuki.

Per *Doric*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. S. R. Price, Mr. C. Sterring, Rev. D. S. and Mrs. Hibbard, Mr. C. J. Kuhn, Mr. G. Apar, Mr. C. S. Nicholson, Mr. A. G. and Mrs. Bryer, Miss Ethelind Bryer, Miss Otalia Bryer, Mr. J. J. B. Heemskerk, Mr. Pedro Sick, Mr. Jas. H. and Mrs. Green, Miss Bohn, Mr. F. L. and Mrs. Pringst, Miss Davis, Miss Callaghan, Mr. J. H. McHenry, Mr. S. Choh, Mr. L. L. Etzel, Mrs. H. N. Cook, Mr. A. F. and Mrs. Cass, Misses Cass (2), Mr. A. V. and Mrs. Hunter and Mr. W. A. Hadden.

Per *Ceylon*, from Hongkong from London, Mr. D. Wood, Miss K. E. Stollard, Miss A. Gorham, 2nd Lieut. H. A. Lewis, Messrs. R. J. Hall and C. Sherrington; from Singapore, Mr. von Sel- rick. For Shanghai from London, Mr. F. A. P. May, Ma or and Mrs. Starr, and Mr. J. H. Teesdale. For Yokohama from London Mr. W. Walter; from Marseilles, Mr. Nordlinger; from Singapore, Mr. A. J. Wicks.

DEPARTED.

Per *Ballaarat*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Lieut. F. G. Hendley, Mrs. Rosenthal, Messrs. Butterworth and J. C. Ribeiro; for Bombay, Mr. B. P. Lalcaea, Capt. W. Thwaites, R.A., Messrs. E. Joona and Rattanji; for Marseilles, Messrs. M. Nararro, T. Zarazoua, T. Arriaga, Z. Praxiado, T. Ubernaga, and T. Briones; for Brindisi, Mr. F. S. Bennett; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Hagan, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bailey, Mr. J. Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Moore and 2 children Messrs. Richmond, Creelman, Ash- worth, Master Gunn, W. H. Sibborn, Mrs. Sib- born and 5 children. From Shanghai for Singa- pore, Mr. G. McBain; for Penang, Mr. E. James; for Colombo, Mr. W. Cox; for Marseilles, Mrs. Hewett; for London, Mr. H. K. Hiller, Mrs. Hiller and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Daily, Mr. R. J. McGowan, Rev. C. H. Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Stark, Mr. and Mrs. Broomhall, Rev. and Mrs. Cousen and 3 children. From Yokohama for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Mer- tens; for Colombo, Mr. W. Moxon; for London, Mr. and Mrs. O. Ward. From Kobe for Mar- seilles, Mr. G. W. Hodgkinson. From Naga- saki for Port Said, Count H. Kiperling.

Per *Sungkiang*, for Manila, Messrs. Maningue, A. Mackillop, E. M. Jones, Mitchell, Williams, Nelson, B. J. Henderson, Saunders, Rosenthal, Manatoe, Ramirez, Villawa, Ricker, Reina, Col. J. Seymour, Mrs. J. Brown, M. S. H. Coates, Miss Guerero, Mrs. Modesta, and Mr. Madamba.

Per *Parramatta*, for Shanghai from Hong- kong, Messrs. R. H. Bennett, S. J. David, W. Hunt, Major and Mrs. M. M. Morris, Mr. A. P. MacEwen, Mr. H. Keswick, Capt. Rickman, and Mr. Johnson; from London, Mr. and Mrs.

Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. May and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson, Messrs. Fergu- son, Plowman, and G. Tuck; from Marseilles, Mr. H. King; from Brindisi, Dr. and Mrs. Keely, Messrs. S. Penrose and Hennard; from Bombay, Capt. Vibert.

Per *Rosetta*, from Hongkong for Nagasaki, Mr. R. H. Powers, Major Hare, and Mr. L. J. W. Coffin; for Kobe, Messrs. Knapp, H. Filiol, and L. Maller. For Kobe from Port Said, Mrs. G. T. Croxton, and Miss Burpee; from Singa- pore, Mrs. Pakenham. For Yokohama from London, Mrs. Mudge, Mr. J. Biley, Mr. and Mrs. W. Wallace, and Mrs. Cameron; from Marseilles, Messrs. Solez and Sword; from Is- mailia, Messrs. J. Turnball and Armstrong.

Per *Diamante*, for Manila, Messrs. H. H. Ellis, G. H. Griffing, H. Fleming, F. V. Freide, J. A. da Silva, Mrs. Stulz and child, Mrs. Kran- thoff, Mr. and Mrs. Redfera, Messrs. W. C. Duncan, Achoo, A. H. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Hides, Messrs. Scherer and son, J. H. Pren- tice, E. T. Irwin, Gay, Mr. and Mrs. Beveridge, Messrs. D. Flexner, Barker, Flint, The Hon. J. W. Garrett, Messrs. Coolidge and Farades.

Per *China*, for Shanghai, Mr. L. R. Tuttle, Mr. and Mrs. Bell Irving, Dr. and Mrs. M. Schlosser, Lieut. R. H. James, Messrs. P. D. Bergen and J. S. Gubbay; for Nagasaki, Mr. A. Hawaldt; for Kobe, Miss D. E. Hazeland, Mr. W. L. Capps, Mrs. G. F. St. John, and Miss Vera St. John; for Yokohama, Messrs. Dowrojee Norowji, Pestonjee, W. Nicholson, G. Murray Bain, Mr. and Mrs. M. Assorie; for Honolulu, Mrs. J. M. Atherton, Mrs. F. Stock- bridge, Miss Grace Cook, Miss M. A. Richard, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Lowry, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Wickman, Mrs. H. B. Arnold, Messrs. C. Ming Hym and Ma Chin Sang; for San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Fish, Mr. E. B. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. E. Z. Simmons, Miss North, Messrs. A. Heinnisch, D. W. Kirkland, G. Hoffner, Mrs. W. K. McKibben, Master V. M. McKibben, Mr. S. Penrose, Dr. and Mrs. R. F. Keely, Mr. John C. McColl, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ashmore, Mr. and Mrs. Hong Hong Sam and infant, Mrs. Chan Kom Fong, Messrs. Giesel, L. Nichols, and W. Sheffey; for New York, Mrs. Holbrook, Miss Mary Whitney; for New West- minister, Mr. C. J. Iglestrom; for London, Sir James Westland, Miss Westland, Messrs. H. F. Bosman, J. P. Cottam, and F. C. Quiem; for Liverpool, Mr. A. McGillivray.

Per *Preussen*, for Shanghai from Bremen, Mr. H. C. Muller, Mrs. N. Scherren, Mrs. O. Buschendorff, Mrs. F. Lew, Messrs. P. Behrens, C. Behrend, and H. Pfauuuller; from South- ampton, Mr. J. P. Morley, Mrs. McLeish, Mrs. Shevernot's child; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph, Dr. and Mrs. Schwah, Messrs. Throla, H. Meyer, A. Schmidt, A. Fritz, von Bulow, Zellenthine, O. Kaess, Herrenpagen, G. Retter, A. Wiemann, Miss R. Wilbalm; from Naples, Mr. L. Maschimeyer; from Colombo, Mr. Dad- son; from Singapore, Lieut. Zura, Messrs. G. Meyer, H. Huidechopor, J. L. Loveland, Tang Cheung Chok, J. Hurteg, A. McArthur, Mrs. Ischelgram; from Hongkong, Dr. P. Creig, Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Reuter and child, Mrs. V. Leslie, Messrs. P. Hinkley, K. Ono, E. M. Snyder, F. Rogers, and J. Cox.

Per *Hohenzollern*, for Yokohama from South- ampton, Mr. J. B. Whitehead and family; from Genoa, Mr. Hunter; from Naples, Dr. O. Nachor, Miss E. Juelin; from Colombo, Mrs. Fowler, Mr. F. Netta; from Singapore, Mr. E. Hagadorn; from Hongkong, Messrs. H. R. Mahettany, A. B. Smith, M. Grote, and A. Vassif. For Kobe from Hongkong, Mr. O. Cohen. For Nagasaki from Bremen, Mr. S. Skevelsky; from Colombo, Mr. G. S. Schwabe.

Per *Guthrie*, for Port Darwin, &c., Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Kirsch and child, and Mr. S. Armitage.

Per *Tamba Maru*, for Singapore, &c., Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Campbell and 5 children, Mrs. E. S. Barrie, Misses Barrie (2), Messrs. J. Maclachlan, A. Mitchel, Capt. R. C. Tod, W. H. Lacy, H. S. Brown, J. Morton, S. Pome roy, B. W. Drake, John Taylor, J. Adam, Captain Sage, Messrs. J. Smith, W. Harvey, W. D. Hamilton, W. H. Phillips, W. N. Porter, J. Carroll, Sheppard, Davison, Clarke, and Turner.

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